

Thatcher fear of leaks stopped Budget discussion

The Prime Minister has said she cannot agree to some ministers' wish to discuss in advance the general strategy of the Budget. Her main reason is a fear of leaks to the media. Industrial leaders spelt out their disappointment with

the Budget when they met Mrs Thatcher last night, and a noted Tory backbench critic of government economic policy has said he will not be a candidate at the next election because of his disagreement with it.

Ministers refuse to be gagged

By George Clark

Political Staff

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has told the group of ministers who believe they should have had a chance of discussing in advance the general strategy of the Budget that she cannot agree to any change of procedure.

Her main reason, apparently, is that she fears there would be leaks to the media, leading to reports that the Cabinet was split, even though ministers might only have been having a general discussion on priorities.

In effect, she indicated again that she no longer trusts some of her colleagues to keep Cabinet secrets or to accept collective Cabinet responsibility.

According to one of her advisers, the Prime Minister believes there was a pre-Budget discussion in the Cabinet in the morning, the details of which have leaked to reporters by teletype.

In a television interview in January, after her reshuffle of cabinet posts, she complained about ministers who went along with Cabinet decisions and then went outside and told people so much they disagreed with them.

That would weaken any government, she said. It was not just a question of loyalty to the Prime Minister: "Cabinet government consists of coming to decision by discussion" and did not make for efficiency if you feel that everything you say might be repeated outside."

She hoped then that, after Government changes, leaking would happen less and less. At her experience over the past four days has apparently convinced her that the activities of dissenting ministers have not been curbed.

Indeed, it is known that at least two ministers, after their television interview, said privately that they would not change their habits, especially when they thought things were going wrong.

Reactions to the Budget from 11 quarters were so hostile that several ministers revived the idea that the Cabinet should

meet several times a year to discuss economic strategy, and certainly once before the period when the Chancellor of the Exchequer was working on his Budget.

They believe that, if there could have been such discussion this time, they might have influenced the Chancellor and Mrs Thatcher to give more encouragement to investment in industry and to divert some of the Government's spending to capital projects that would have helped the private sector and provided new jobs.

The main complaint of several Cabinet ministers is that strategic economic decisions are taken more and more often by a small group of ministers, often on the advice of experts who are outside the range of normal ministerial consultations.

Mr Francis Pym, the former Secretary of State for Defence, who is now Leader of the Commons, was one who revived the proposal that the whole Cabinet should be brought more closely into the consultations.

Conservative whips were becoming increasingly anxious yesterday about the prospect of a Conservative revolt against the Government when the Budget resolutions are put to the vote on Monday night.

But while the rumblings of Conservative discontent continued, at Westminster and in the constituencies, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, was saying on the *Jimmy Young Show* on BBC radio: "We shall not be moved from our central objectives."

Of course, I understand that steering the economy and taking people like our own through economic difficulties of this kind is a difficult business. But we are willing to respond as far as we possibly can to soften the edges of change and soften the edges of what is necessarily a tough policy.

"From the cabinet objective I think the people would wish us to be moved. It is their objective as well."

Defending the 20p increase of duty on petrol, which may not get approval in the Commons

if many Tories vote with Labour, and Liberal and minority party MPs join in opposition to it. Geoffrey said: "The yield from this duty and other fuels is more than £1,000m and the money has got to come from somewhere."

One Tory backbencher, Mr Robert Hicks, MP for Bodmin, reflected exactly what several ministers have been saying privately.

He told constituents: "The present system, whereby the Chancellor outlines his detailed Budget proposals to his Cabinet colleagues on the morning of the Budget speech, means that there is no discussion about economic strategy, which makes a mockery of the principle of collective Cabinet responsibility."

It is what the dissenting ministers are saying, although Mrs Thatcher talks of loyalty and collective Cabinet responsibility, they are not in fact given the opportunity to assert any responsibility over many vital decisions.

Mr Clive Lander, chairman of the Tory Reform Group, referring to the Prime Minister's appeal on Wednesday to critics within the Government to show some guts, said yesterday: "This Budget has been portrayed as one of guts. It is nothing of the sort."

"This Budget strikes at the heart of pledges which we gave as a party in 1979: pledges to help industry, to help the family, and to help those worst off in our society, and share the burden of sacrifice."

The issue is no longer between so-called 'wets' and 'drys'. It is between those who will follow the Chancellor through every twist and turn and reversal of strategy that is plainly no strategy, and those who recognize the harm that is being done to the country."

In Manchester, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, who is regarded as one of the leading 'wets' in the Cabinet, strongly defended the Budget.

Voice for ministers, page 2
Fred Emery, page 14
Leading article, letters, page 15

Tory not to stand at next election

Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, MP for Norfolk, North-West, one of the noted Tory backbench "wets" and a critic of the Government's economic policy, stated last night that he would not be standing as a candidate in the next general election.

He gave notice to his constituency Conservative Association's annual meeting that he intends to spend the rest of his time openly declaring his need for the Government to change much of its economic strategy.

He said he hoped to be able to speak in the Budget debate on Monday to express his "considerable opposition to much of this Government's economic policy" and he added: "My profound disagreement with the Conservative policy has prompted me to make this decision."

After breaking the news to his constituents, Mr Brocklebank-Fowler left the meeting in tears. The 200 members present remained sitting in stunned silence.

Reaction among party members was one of shock. Mr Kenneth Bush, president of the local Conservative Association, said: "This news comes as a big surprise. I was speaking to the MP only this morning and he never mentioned a word."

Ordeal is nearly over for hijack passengers

Damascus, March 13.—Pakistani officials said today that an aircraft carrying 54 political prisoners will leave Islamabad early tomorrow and fly to Syria for the start of their exchange for the hostages who have been held on board the hijacked Pakistani airliner for 12 days.

Mr Sarfaraz Khan, the Pakistani ambassador to Syria, said that the aircraft would fly to Aleppo, Syria, where Pakistani officials and medical experts would leave the aircraft.

The prisoners would then be transferred to a Syrian plane and flown to Tripoli in Libya. Once there, Mr Khan said, a Syrian official would confirm the identities of those on board and then the hostages would be released.

A PIA (Pakistani International) aircraft will take off from Pakistan with 54 prisoners on board," Mr Khan said.

In addition to the prisoners, the plane would carry a team of Pakistani medical experts, the chairman of PIA, and Mr Muhammad al-Hadi, the Pakistani Minister of Education.

"The plane will fly to Aleppo and the prisoners will be transferred to a Syrian plane and take off for Tripoli," he said.

"The Syrian Ambassador in Tripoli will verify the identities of the persons on board and send a message back to Syrian officials here in Damascus and then the hostages will be promptly released," Mr Khan said.

He said they would be taken to a Damascus military hospital.

Asked what would happen with the hijackers at that stage, the ambassador replied, "that is a Syrian problem."

Diplomatic sources said it was expected that the hijackers would also be flown to Libya.

Diplomatic sources said that an American doctor and a psychiatrist had been flown to Damascus to look after the three Americans on the aircraft. They will treat them at the military hospital in Damascus. The sources also said they expected all the hijackers, including the Americans, to be kept incommunicado in the hospital.

It was not clear when they would be leaving Syria, but the diplomatic sources said they would remain there for "a couple of days."

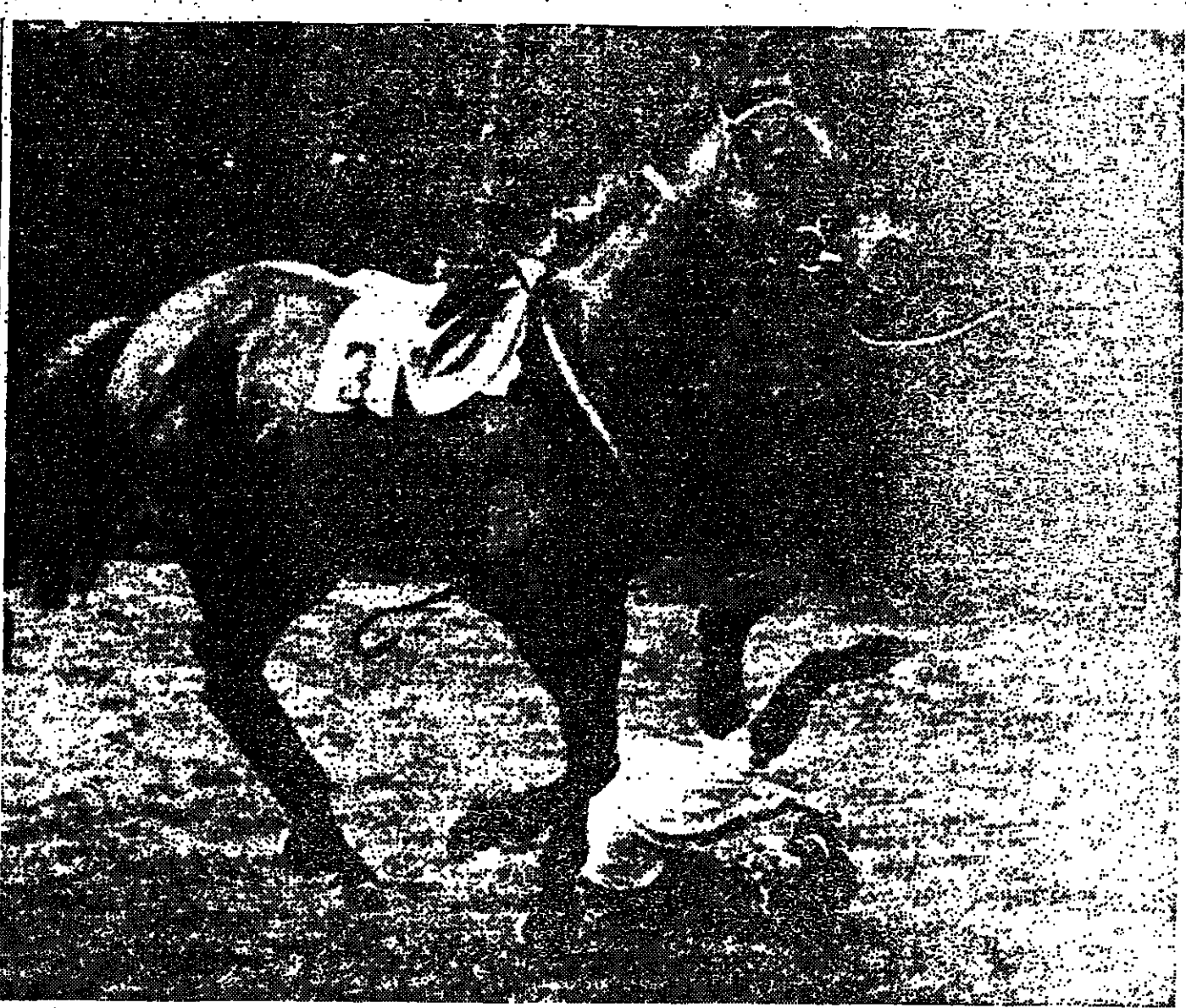
The Pakistani aircraft carrying the prisoners was expected to arrive around 8 am (0600 GMT). It was not known how long the plane would stay in Aleppo, but the flight Tripoli takes about two hours, thus leaving some time in the early afternoon.—UPI.

Libya agrees: Libya will accept the aircraft carrying the 54 Pakistani political prisoners, the Libyan news agency Jana said today. (AP reports from Tripoli).

Libya has agreed to receive the plane for motives of humanity and to save the lives of the human beings on board the hijacked plane," the agency said.

Passengers exhausted: The condition of the passengers on the hijacked aircraft was reported to be very bad, with some suffering from extreme exhaustion. A Damascus airport catering employee who has been on the plane described the inside as "extremely messy, smelly and a lot of litter on the floor."

Hijack's origins, page 4



The Prince of Wales hitting the turf at Sandown yesterday after his hunter Good Prospect had grazed a fence.

Steeplechasing Prince takes a royal tumble

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

The Prince of Wales took a tumble at Sandown Park yesterday when racing in the Grand Military Gold Cup on his own horse Good Prospect.

Riding in what was only his third steeplechase, he was in sixth position three quarters of a mile from the finish when his mount hit the top of a fence and unseated the Prince on landing.

Happily neither horse nor rider was any the worse for the experience, apart

from a slightly bloody nose (the Prince's) and together they returned to the unsaddling area to the applause of an admiring, sympathetic and unusually large crowd.

At the time of the fall Good Prospect was sufficiently in touch with the leaders and going well enough to have finished in the first three.

"Until then everything had gone according to plan", Mr Nick Gaselee, the Prince's trainer, said rather ruefully.

Prince Charles had walked the course with his trainer earlier in the morning to pick the best of the rain-sodden ground, before joining his fiancée, Lady Diana Spencer, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and Princess Margaret in the paddock as Good Prospect paraded before the race.

I have never seen such a large crowd at Sandown for this event but some-

what surprisingly the majority did not back their loyalty with their money and Mr Leslie Spencer who has represented the William Hill organization on the rails for many years, told me subsequently that he took barely a bet for the Prince's horse.

In the circumstances it was not surprising to hear that Good Prospect drifted in the market from 3-1 to 5-1.

Prince Charles looked relaxed in the paddock and appeared to be enjoying every minute as he took his horse to the start in a manner that the accomplished horseman would approve. Everything continued to go well until he met his downfall at the fifth fence from the finish.

The eventual winner was The Drunken Duck, ridden by E. J. R. Munnro-Wilson.

Sandown meeting, page 7

CIA accused of aiding subversion in Poland

By Michael Bygon

Moscow, March 13

The Russians today accused the American Central Intelligence Agency of directly aiding Solidarity, Poland's independent trade union, to subvert communism by smuggling in printing and duplicating equipment.

A toughly worded report by the official news agency, Tass, read out on Moscow Radio and carried this morning in *Pravda*, said money for the equipment was being raised ostensibly by the American trade union organization, AFL-CIO. But, in fact, the special fund was a cover for the CIA, which had unlimited money to finance ideological operations, against communist countries.

The accusation comes as the Polish situation appears increasingly grim in Moscow. The Soviet media have again stepped up their attacks on Solidarity and Polish dissidents.

There is an ominous air of conspiracy over the continuing political divisions in Poland and the renewed threat of strikes, coming so soon after the Soviet-Polish summit after the Soviet party congress.

President Brezhnev and his senior Politburo colleagues then told the Poles they expected decisive action in Warsaw to bring the situation under control.

Today's report in *Pravda* said printing equipment smuggled into Poland was being used by Solidarity to produce pamphlets and subversive literature and strengthen the propaganda of the anti-socialist forces within the union.

It was not secret among counter-revolutionary Polish émigrés, *Pravda* added, that the American "donations" were intended to destabilize the socialist order in Poland.

Other reports from Warsaw today dwell on the allegations made against the dissident KOR (Self-Defence Committee) and said Solidarity was now putting pressure on the Polish Government for the release of KOR counter-revolutionaries, the most abusive term in the Soviet political lexicon.

Tass reports all emphasized the links the Russians claim KOR and the anti-communist group the "Confederation of Independent Poland" have established with Western intelligence services and émigré organizations.

The agency said Polish television had documentary proof of the subversive activities of the "rabid anti-socialist" Con-

federation and its links with the Polish government-in-exile in London, revanchist circles in West Germany and former Gestapo agents.

Tass said the Confederation's programme was to overthrow by force and violence the political system in Poland. To do this, it urged Poles to refuse to carry out government decisions, aggravate the situation in the country, and provoke conflict that would paralyse government actions, disturb public order and undermine Poland's defence capabilities by tearing the country away from its allies.

Soviet gift: Mr Marian Krask, the Polish Finance Minister, said on television that the Soviet Union had granted Poland more than \$1,000m (£440m) in credit, of which \$460m were a gift (Reuters reports from Warsaw).

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CBI tells No 10 of industry's dismay

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Industry leaders told the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer at 10 Downing Street last night that any companies would close as a result of the Budget.

Sir Raymond Pennock, CBI resident, and Sir Terence Ackett, director-general, spent hours expressing their concern over the Budget's effects on business. Downing Street described the meeting as a friendly and businesslike one.

"Sir Raymond said: 'I would just say businesslike'."

He added: "This was not the kind of Budget which had been dilly dally. It is something neither hoped for, nor expected. It will penalize business and increase prices, bankruptcies and unemployment."

They emphasized the fundamental disagreements between industry and the Treasury about the level of the public sector. Borrowing requirements which could be ordered and the scope for lower interest rates.

Immediately after the Budget CBI organized emergency consultations between regional businessmen, members of the influential president's committee. These produced the unanimous

view that more had been taken from industry than had been given to it in the Chancellor's package.

Despite the deep dismay felt by manufacturers, Sir Terence said the disagreement was an "honest difference of opinion."

A full report of the meeting will be given to members of the CBI's policy-making council next Wednesday. But the outcome seems to have been that CBI leaders have accepted for the time being a promise of a further cut in interest rates in the medium term.

Industrialists will continue to make representations on the need, in their view, to reduce or abolish the National Insurance surcharge. But they are now unlikely, in view of last night's talks to embark on the furious lobbying of MPs which had been planned for the weekend in advance of Monday's debate.

Sir Raymond and Sir Terence, speaking after the meeting, stressed the concessions their earlier representations had obtained in getting government proposals to change sick pay arrangements dropped. They also repeated the National Insurance surcharge, Mr Thatcher pointed that the four points cut in interest rates which they had called for in November had been obtained.

Civil servants spread pay dispute

Civil Service pay dispute has spread to the unions claim that 100,000 members left their posts in protest at a cut of suspension against Customs and Excise assistants in Liverpool. Unemployment benefits for 130,000 people in the UK and Scotland were delayed by a week at a computer centre.

Victory for Laker

Civil Aviation Authority granted Airways a scheduled service licence between Gatwick and Zurich at the expense of British Airways. Sir Fredricker, the airline chief, has been seeking a licence in Europe for two years. He told he could start the new service on 11 next year.

Mortgage rate cut

Building societies are cutting mortgage rates from 14 to 13 per cent immediately. Competition for personal savings from the Government had prevented a bigger reduction, Mr Leonard Williams, chairman of the Building Societies Association, said. The new rate paid to society investors drops from 9.25 to 8.5 per cent.

Parental victory

Working parents won an important victory at the Employment Appeal Tribunal when it held that a restaurant owner acted unlawfully in dismissing a woman because he found out that she was a mother. The judge said there was no evidence to show she was unreliable.

World Bank protest

Mr Colby King, the United States director of the World Bank, has resigned in protest at President Reagan's proposed foreign aid policies. In his letter of resignation Mr King urged the new Administration to continue America's strong support for the World Bank.

Bank strike threat

Threatened industrial action against banks grew nearer after two main unions rejected an improved pay offer of 9.1 per cent. One union is balloting 1,000 members at key computer centres for strike action if employers fail to increase their offer.

West Indies recover

England captured four wickets for 65 before lunch on the first day of the third Test match in Bridgetown, but a splendid 100 by the West Indies' captain, Lloyd, led a recovery to 235 for seven by the close. Jackson, England's new cap, took three wickets.

Stocks and cage: MP seeks public humiliation for hoodlums

Quebec poll: Premier sets date after budget of tax cuts

Belgrade: Student riots in Kosovo shake Yugoslavs

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Rugby Union: International Board change laws to stop pile-ups and scrumming collapses. Football: Liverpool lose Thompson for League Cup Final; Cricket: Hughes to captain Australian touring team; Skiing: Miss Nadig wins world cup

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Stock Market: Profit taking was apparent in all sectors of the market yesterday where trading in equities was quiet. A similar story in gilt showed prices generally unchanged. The FT index closed 3.8 down at 477.2

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Civil Service unions bring out the taxmen

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The Civil Service pay dispute deepened yesterday with mass walkouts, the start of a strike by workers in two key tax computer centres and a threat to unemployment benefits due to 130,000 people in the north of England and Scotland.

The unions claimed that 100,000 civil servants left their posts in protest over a threat of suspension against Customs and Excise clerical assistants in Liverpool who are "blacklisting" imports from Ireland.

Many members of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation took part in the protest, including more than 1,000 workers at the PAYE computer centres at Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, and Shipley, near Bradford, who were not due to start work until next Monday.

Unemployment benefits have been delayed because of a protest strike on Thursday by 35 staff at the Department of Employment computer at Livingston, near Edinburgh. Benefits held up by the strike were to have been paid yesterday and will be delayed, probably until Tuesday.

It is understood that managers of unemployment benefit offices have been warned to expect many people at their offices on Monday complaining about the benefit payments not being made. Managers will probably close the offices if there is a danger of disturbances.

Mr William Kendall, secretary general of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said last night: "The membership has shown the Government today what they can expect if they try to use the tactic of suspensions again to escalate the dispute."

He said the first week of the action, called by the nine unions representing 530,000 white collar staff in pursuit of a 15 per cent increase and a new pay system based on com-

parability and arbitration, had been very good.

"However, next week will have crucial importance for the future of the dispute. Some unions estimate that with the PAYE computers halted and disruption at the VAT computers centre in Southend-on-Sea, the Government could be deprived of weekly revenues of up to £2,000,000 but it is thought that that would be exceptional."

Immigration officers are due to start two days of disruption today at Heathrow airport, London, and at five Scottish airports. On Monday 10 people at the Department of Health and Social Security's computer office at North Fyde, Lancashire, will go on strike and that will affect the administration of the National Insurance Fund.

Among the groups of workers who walked out yesterday, most of whom will be back at work on Monday, were several thousands at government offices in the City of London, staff at many offices in Liverpool, Manchester and the North-west, and union members in Edinburgh, where court sittings were disrupted.

Action called off: The Council of Civil Service Unions last night called off its "guerrilla" strike against the Government's highly sensitive Composite Signals Organisation Station at Bude, in Cornwall (Peter Hennessy writes).

Despite the action, which began last Sunday evening when sections of the night shift failed to report for work, the station has managed to maintain the flow of information about the passage of Soviet spy satellites.

Submarine strike: Ten key workers at the Faslane nuclear submarine base, in Dunbartonshire, strike, last night (the Press Association reports). The unions said the strike would have been against the submarines but could not say whether they would be prevented from sailing.

Disruption threat to business searches

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

Trade union leaders claimed yesterday that they would be great disruption to British business after a decision to call out 27 workers at the Companies Registration Office, in Cardiff, on indefinite strike from Monday.

The staff, most of whom are women, work in the microfilm department, and without them the Civil Service unions say essential business practices will be halted.

The strike, which is part of the national industrial action by Civil Service unions, means that company searches, which are crucial for the Government's commercial property and sales and for share transactions, will cease to be available to the public and to business.

Although the main business of the registration office is conducted in Cardiff since it was moved there under the Labour government's programme to disperse Civil Service departments, most searches are done in the London office, but the staff there have been on strike since last Monday.

Since then businessmen and secretaries have been travelling to Cardiff to conduct searches. Usually 50,000 searches are conducted each week, only 10,000 of which are done in Cardiff.

But throughout the week the workload at Cardiff has been increasing and some businessmen have been paying strangers £5 to stand in a queue to ask for a particular search to be done.

Union leaders travelled to Cardiff yesterday and persuaded the staff that their objectives could be achieved by closing the searches department without all 700 of them taking action.

Mr John Hawkins, assistant secretary of the civil service union, told the women: "If we lose this fight the Government will have broken the back of the Civil Service. It is a struggle we have to win."

Future of the strike by civil servants, viewed from opposing corners

When the planners fail to agree

By Peter Hennessy

After the first week of what both sides agree is likely to be a long dispute, how do the rival sets of contingency planners involved view the progress of the Civil Service strike?

The world looks different when seen from the operations room of the Economy (Official Civil Service) Cabinet committee of senior civil servants, or E (OCS), as it is known, in the Old Admiralty Building, Whitehall, and from its "twin" across Westminster, in Rochester Row, at the headquarters of the Council of Civil Service Unions.

They are no nearer agreeing how many people actually came out in last Monday's one-day strike. The E (OCS) estimate is 53 per cent of all white-collar civil servants, the council's Pay Campaign Committee (PCC) claims 80 per cent.

The E (OCS) secretariat has not, as yet, compiled a complete picture of the effects of the past five days' industrial action. It cannot, for example, give a figure for how much

revenue the Exchequer has lost from strikes against the Government's tax-gathering machine.

But the ministerial Cabinet committee, which has met once this week under the chairmanship of Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, was given some intriguing statistics to ponder.

The E (OCS) committee could offer an index of relative militancy for last Monday, with the top three departments including an 85 per cent walkout at the Inland Revenue, 73 per cent at the Scottish Courts Administration, and 64 per cent at the Department of Health and Social Security. At the other end of the table were the Home Office, with 11 per cent, and the Treasury, with 5 per cent.

On the senior staff who are members of the Association of First Division Civil Servants involved in the dispute, the Soames committee was told that provisional estimates for Monday's action included four under-secretaries, 105 assistant secretaries, 130 senior principals and 1,100 principals.

At the meeting Lord Soames and his colleagues did not discuss the possibility of raising the Government's 7 per cent pay offer to a figure closer to the unions' claim of 15 per cent.

Their hopes for ending the strike rest on discovering a new arrangement for determining Civil Service pay on the basis of job comparison with analogous tasks in other sectors to replace the old pay research system that the Government has abandoned since the last pay round.

Whitehall is unlikely to have any detailed plans ready to put to the unions for some weeks, although the staff of the old Pay Research Unit are still in post with their files in working order.

It was not possible yesterday to interview Mr Colin Allan, the assistant secretary in charge of the E (OCS) operations room. But his opposite number, Mr Peter Jones, deputy secretary general of the council and chairman of its PCC, described the E (OCS) estimates for Monday's turnout as a "downright lie". They are misleading the coun-

try and, worse still, misleading ministers and themselves.

Mr Jones judged the "guerrilla" action to have been highly successful. He said the value-added tax revenue lost to the Exchequer so far would have bridged the gap between the council's claim and the Government's offer.

For the rival groups of contingency planners, the key to the duration of the strike is the money available to meet the union's pledge to pay 85 per cent of the wages of those called out on strike. Mr Jones says the council has enough to last for more than six weeks and could raise its cash flow further if need be.

After several inconclusive meetings the Government's law officers advised E (OCS) that departments could temporarily relieve from duty without pay any civil servant refusing to assume the duties of a colleague taking selective action.

The council believes that such a course is illegal, and a challenge, dating from an episode at a royal ordnance factory last year, will be before the courts next year.

Laker flights to Europe agreed after long fight

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Sir Freddie Laker yesterday gained the toe-hold he has been seeking in Europe when the Civil Aviation Authority granted his airline, Laker Airways, a scheduled service licence between Gatwick and Zurich at the expense of British Airways.

The authority also took away the Gatwick-Frankfurt route from British Airways and gave it to British Caledonian Airways.

Both Airlines were told they could start the new service from April 1 next year, but British Airways, which was allowed to keep its Gatwick-Dusseldorf route in the face of applications from Laker, British Caledonian, and Dan-Air, is to appeal.

Sir Freddie has been battling at the European aviation door for the past two years and has applied for more than 600 routes within the Continent and between Britain and the Continent.

Granting the licences to Laker and British Caledonian yesterday, the aviation authority said that it had very much in mind "the desirability of achieving lower fares on routes to European destinations".



Mother wins test case: A woman with four children won an important test case yesterday against the owner of a restaurant who dismissed her when he found out she was a mother. It would have made her unreliable, he said. The decision by the Employment Appeal Tribunal that Mr Edward Mustoe had broken the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, was hailed as a blow for the protection of working mothers and fathers. It is the first case of its kind to be won under the Act (Lucie Hodges writes). Mr

Justice Browne-Wilkinson, who was giving his first sex discrimination judgment as the new president of the tribunal, said Mrs Ursula Hurley had been discriminated against because she was a woman and, because of her marital status. Mrs Hurley, aged 30, of Sanderson Close, Kentish Town, north London (seen with three of her children) was turned away from a one-night trial at Edwards Bistro, in Kentish Town Road, where she had gone to work as a waitress.

Law Report, page 13

£20m fund run down to help university

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government has included a £20m fund in next year's recurrent grant for universities to help them to meet the cost of running down the system.

Mr Mar Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced in the Commons yesterday that the universities grant for the next academic year would be £979m; that provided about 3 per cent less in real terms for home students than in the current academic year.

The grant included £20m which the University Grants Committee would "allocate specifically for the purpose of adapting the university system to the reduced level of funding which will be available in 1983-84", Mr Carlisle said.

Universities would also be expected to use their accumulated reserves, under the guidance of the grants committee, for the same purpose, he added. The Government estimate that university reserves last summer totalled about £70m.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals protested that their reserves were meagre and said that it was not clear whether the £20m was in addition to the figures originally planned by the Government.

Even if it was extra money, it would make only a slight contribution to the solution of the acute difficulties faced by universities.

Mr Carlisle said that the cut in grant was likely to lead to a reduction in the number of home students admitted in October.

The total number of home undergraduates in 1981-82 was expected to be about 235,000 and home postgraduate numbers were assumed to remain at their present total of about 30,000.

In order to keep the total number of home undergraduates constant, admissions will have to be cut by at least 6 per cent.

Oxford entrants: Women account for two-thirds of this year's successful candidates to Oxford University, almost double their proportion 10 years ago. The proportion of places going to pupils from maintained schools exceeds half for the first time.

Man jailed for conspiring to corrupt morals

Tom O'Carroll, of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, former chairman of the Paedophile Information Exchange, was jailed for two years yesterday for conspiring to corrupt public morals by publishing a catalogue for people interested in committing sexual acts with children.

Michael Dagnall, of Southampton, and John Parratt, of Putney, London, were found not guilty of conspiracy to corrupt by publishing the page, intending that advertisers would induce readers to send them obscene material. The jury was discharged from giving a verdict on Mr O'Carroll on that count.

London is the left's greatest prize

Continued from page 1

er of the city council, said the Labour group in Birmingham is a mixed bag including centre right and Tribune left members, but there was not one member with the militant group.

Mr Wilkinson was a signatory to the declaration of support for the Council for Social Democracy published recently in *The Guardian*, although he remains firmly inside the Labour Party. For that a resolution was put to the Birmingham district party seeking an explanation of his position or his resignation. The resolution, put at a meeting this week, was defeated.

While the battle continues in Birmingham, the left appear to have won a victory in Wall, which last year caused a controversy over its decision to appoint only "socially aware" candidates as officers.

There have been several cases of councillors being ousted of office, including Mr John, a leading member of the "non-left" from 1972-80, and a committee chairman.

He explained that when his ward was amalgamated last year, the new selection of three councillors from a short list of the three sitting members, of whom he was one, and two others. "I was kicked out in favour of one of the new candidates, and it was a left-wing plot that kicked me out."

Mr John said he refused to stand in a by-election because he wanted to stay in the party, and after failing to win a seat in another ward, eventually was voted back on to the council in a by-election in September, 1980. "I had to call

myself a moderate, but was not happy to do so. I am a traditional, orthodox Socialist, but had to make a distinction. I wonder how many of the Tribune group declare themselves?"

Mr John said he sat as a Labour councillor, loyal but not blindly following the leadership, which was controlled by the left wing. "If the left wingers declared themselves to the electorate and were then elected there could be no challenge to them. But they do not," he said.

London presents the greatest prize. There is no doubt that the left have been working hard, and with success, to ensure that as many candidates sympathetic to their views have been chosen for the GLC elections on May 7. Leading members of the past Labour administration at County Hall, such as Mr Tony Banks, are hoping to return after a period in the wilderness, and other left wingers, including Mr Ted Knight, contesting the wimbles test, but the final decision should be the Chancellor's.

Lord Thorneycroft, Chancellor from 1957 to 1958, said, however, that Britain should stick to the principle that the Budget was a matter between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister.

He recalled only one occasion when a change was made to a Budget after discussion in Cabinet. That was during Lord Butler's time as Chancellor.

Mr McIntosh said that only three sitting Labour members of the GLC had not been re-elected, including Sir Reg Goodwin, the former Labour leader, who was 72, and Mr David Chalkley, also coming to the end of his political career.

Cabinet say in Budget is supported

By Ian Bradley

Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1951 to 1955, said yesterday that members of the Cabinet should have a voice in the Budget.

He said that in his day the Budget was always discussed in Cabinet the day before it was presented in Parliament. He believed it helped the Chancellor to make a better job of it, but the final decision should be the Chancellor's.

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Detective extorted cash from thief in return for help, court told

From Michael Horsnell
Middlesex

A Metropolitan Police detective trapped a petty south London thief in a web of corruption and extortion, forcing him to pay money in return for assistance in his criminal activities, a court was told yesterday.

The policeman, former Detective Sergeant John Symonds, aged 45, was named by *The Times* in 1969 after an investigation into police corruption.

Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, for the prosecution, told Teesside Crown Court that Mr Symonds was trapped after two reporters from *The Times* tape-recorded conversations between him and the criminal, Mr Michael Perry, and observed meetings where money was handed over.

Mr Symonds was committed on bail for trial at the Central Criminal Court in 1972 but fled the country. He returned last May and surrendered to the police. The case was being heard at Middlesex Crown Court, in the interests of a fair trial outside "the big city".

Mr Symonds, who was stationed at Camberwell, south London, has denied three charges of corruption involving a total of £150. The Crown alleges that on three occasions in 1969 he corruptly accepted money from Mr Perry in return for showing favour to Mr Perry over an arrest.

The court was also told that

two other Metropolitan Police officers were involved in extorting money from Mr Perry, then aged 25. That came after an occasion when some plasticine, thought by Mr Perry to be gelignite, was pressed into his hand to obtain his fingerprints. That later became the subject of criminal charges, Mr Rivlin said, against the two other officers, Detective Inspector Bernard Robson and Detective Sergeant Gordon Harris.

Mr Rivlin said: "This case is now quite stale. But we submit that in the circumstances it will be possible for us to roll back the years without too much difficulty."

In October, 1969, Perry found himself in the grip of police corruption, not merely because he was a thief but because he was a man who he thought might be able to help, and as a result Perry was put in touch with two reporters from *The Times* newspaper.

The tapes demonstrate not merely corrupt payments but the lengths Symonds was prepared to go to, to assist Perry in his activities. He was a police officer deeply committed to corruption."

The Times did not trust the police at the time, Mr Rivlin said, and although the evidence was handed to New Scotland Yard on the evening of November 28, 1969, when *The*

Times published its expose, the original tape recordings were held back by the newspaper.

Mr Symonds offered the provincial officers his assistance, although there was no hard evidence against him, a fact which Mr Symonds knew.

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Actor on gun charge

Lewis Collins, who plays Bodie in the independent television series *The Professionals*, was accused yesterday of discharging a firearm with intent to endanger life at his home in Park Avenue, Golders Green, London. He is to appear before Hendon magistrates on March 30.

£48,000 fishing fines

Fines totalling £48,000 were imposed on James Ritchie, skipper, Andrew Tait, Robert Tait and William Tait, joint owners of a Fraserburgh trawler, at Falmouth yesterday, after they denied fishing inside the Cornish three-mile mackerel limit.

Tories lose 3 seats

The Conservatives suffered three defeats in local council by-elections held on Thursday in Oxfordshire. They lost two seats to Labour on Oxford City Council and one to the Liberals in the Vale of White Horse by-election.

Service gun death link

An automatic rifle found beside the body of Mr Andrew Exmouth, Devon, had been issued to a Royal Marine, detectives said yesterday. An Army investigation unit joined the inquiry.

Six fires at school

The police were yesterday investigating six fires which broke out simultaneously at Gravesend School for Girls, in Kent, destroying the main hall, two classrooms and a staff room.

Water workers still split on offer

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

Leaders of the two main unions in the water and sewerage industry are to hold separate meetings this weekend to discuss their next step after votes which have shown a deep division on the employers' 13 per cent pay offer.

The National Union of Public Employees will hold a full executive meeting today after results throughout the country showing a majority of 4,096 to 3,910 in favour of accepting.

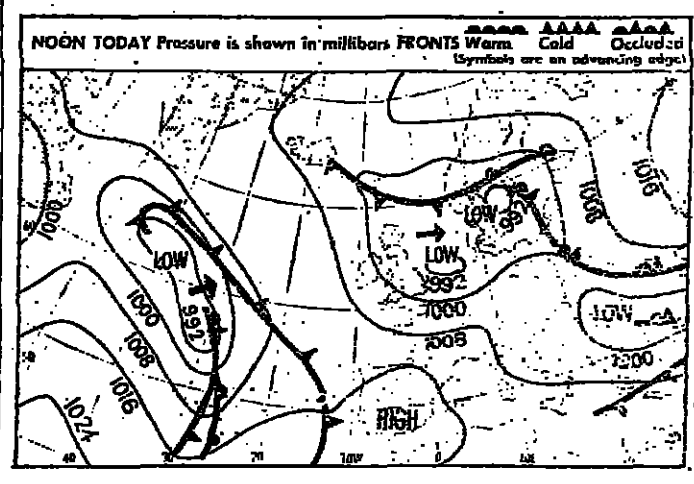
Although six out of eight NUPE areas voted against the

offer, that was outweighed by the fact that votes in favour came from by far the two largest, London and the Midlands.

The count in the General and Municipal Workers' Union by last night showed three regions in favour of the offer and five against with the London region split. The results of the last region to vote, southern, are expected to be known today.

Shopworkers' deal: Shop workers' leaders and supermarket employers are to hold joint talks on the use of new automated check-out systems

Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 7.17 am
Moon sets: 6.03 pm
Full moon: March 20.
Light: 6.33 pm to 5.45 am.
High water: London Bridge, 7.42 am, 6.3m; 8.23 pm, 6.1m. Avonmouth, 12.37 am, 10.3m; 1.27 pm, 10.1m. Dover, 6.37 am, 5.6m; 5.40 pm, 5.3m. Hull, 1.23 am, 6.2m; 2.09 pm, 6m. Liverpool, 7.50 am, 5.18 m; 7.6m; 6 pm, 7.5m. Tr=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft

Tomorrow

Sun rises: 6.15 am
Moon sets: 6.05 pm
Full moon: March 20.
Lighting up: 6.35 pm to 5.43 am.
High water: London Bridge, 8.58 am, 6.2m; 9.41 pm, 6.1m. Avonmouth, 2.04 am, 9.5m; 3.05 pm, 10.1m. Dover, 6.24 am, 5.3m; 7.14 pm, 5.3m. Hull, 1.23 am, 6.2m; 2.09 pm, 6m. Liverpool, 7.50 am, 5.18 m; 7.6m; 6 pm, 7.5m. Tr=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft

Pressure will be low to the E and a rather cold N or NW air stream will become established over Britain.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, Midlands, Wales, central N. England: Rather cloudy, outbreaks of rain, a few bright intervals; wind NW, moderate or fresh, maximum temp 7° to 9°C (45° to 48°F). SE, central S. and SW England, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy with occasional rain, a few bright intervals; wind W or NW, fresh or strong, gale.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: C, cloud; F, fair; R, rain; S, sun; N, snow.

London	c 17	SE	100	London	c 17	SE	100	London	c 17	SE	100
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Three may have died of 'legion' disease

By Nicholas Timmins
and Harry Debelius

Spanish and British medical experts were trying yesterday to establish whether legionnaires' disease killed three British holidaymakers who developed a pneumonia-like illness while staying at the Benidorm hotel.

A fourth Briton, Mrs Marilyn, aged 27, from Ramsgate, who developed a similar illness, is last night being flown from a private Fatima clinic in Benidorm for admission to Coppenham Wood isolation hospital in north London.

The air ambulance firm transporting her said there was no guarantee in the choice of a hospital. In Spain it was reported that she was making normal recovery.

Hotels in Benidorm, including the Tropicana Gardens, have added extra chlorine to their supplies as a precaution against the water-borne bacterium that causes legionnaires' disease.

Intasun, the tour company, which has 600 tourists staying at the three-star Tropicana, feared to fly them home or to take them to other hotels if they wished. Those booked to be staying there are being offered alternative holidays.

The Department of Health did social security yesterday to test on one of the men made a preliminary diagnosis. Confirmation was awaited, however. It was clear yesterday whether the cases were connected.

The first death, a fortnight ago, was that of Mr John Cook, 59, of Southport, who had stayed at the hotel since November. He has been buried in Alicante. Dr Miguel Barcelo, who treated him at the Fatima clinic, said Mr Cook had been suffering from malnutrition.

Mr David Price, aged 68, of Bolton, had a serious kidney complaint as well as pneumonia. Intasun said he was home on March 5 but had died during the flight. Mr Frederick Lord, aged 68, of the Isle of Man, was taken last Saturday. Intasun said he flew back last Tuesday but lapsed and died at Manchester airport.

Dr David Hutchinson, consultant microbiologist at the Preston Public Health Laboratory, said yesterday that a good test on Mr Price had shown some evidence of legionnaires' disease, but was unconvincing. A tissue test had given negative. Culture tests could be completed next week.

The Department of Health yesterday emphasized that there is no evidence that the disease was contagious.

In Spain the State Secretariat of Tourism said no chlorine deficiencies in Benidorm's water supply had been noted.

No VAT relief on repairs to historic buildings

Our Planning Reporter

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday ruled out any prospect of relief from value-added tax on repairs to historic buildings. Nor, in the immediate future, could rate relief be considered, he added.

Replying to a report published last November by the Historic Buildings Council and the British Tourist Authority, he said that many of its recommendations would make additional demands on resources. In the present economic circumstances that was bound to be a significant factor.

The Government's refusal to hint at any form of VAT relief is certain to cause widespread dismay. It is seen as unfair and discriminatory, the new building is exempt from tax, and in many cases likely to make the difference between possible restoration and continuing decay.

In his letter to Lord Montagu Beaulieu, chairman of the working party that produced the report, Mr Heseltine said he was creating the resource available for historic buildings in England by about 11 per cent in real terms in 1981-82.

Local authorities were being urged to bear in mind their powers to relax certain requirements when considering proposals for listed buildings. It could also be wrong for fire authorities to take an inflexible attitude.

Police chiefs study test of anti-riot tactics

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Police chiefs and Home Office officials are studying the results of the first national exercise of mutual support by police forces to handle riots since the shake-up announced by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, after the disorders at St Paul's, Bristol.

Mr George Terry, Chief Constable of Sussex, who is president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, had the task on Monday of testing communications procedures in case of trouble requiring back-up by officers from other forces. The exercise was simulated, a peace-keeping equivalent of a war time.

The "peace-game" tactics are used on a rejection of deliberately aggressive police methods. The task is to bring in sufficient officers to maintain the additional British police role in peace-keeping by the Mr Terry said yesterday that Mr Monday's exercise he asked to police forces to get a small number of officers ready to

Kagan plea for liberty to save companies from stagnation fails

A plea that Lord Kagan should be freed from jail to save his textile companies from stagnation was rejected by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

The founder of the Gannex group was refused leave to appeal against the 10-month jail sentence and £56,000 fine imposed on him at Leeds Crown Court on December 12 last.

Lord Kagan, aged 65, was also refused permission to challenge the crown court judge's order disqualifying him from holding company directorships for three years, after his plea of guilty to charges of theft and false accounting.

A Kagan group company, Cellofoam (Yorkshire) Ltd, fined £375,000 for conspiracy to defraud the Inland Revenue, was also refused leave to appeal.

The appeal judges were told by Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, that Lord Kagan's continued incarceration in Brixton, open prison, West Yorkshire, was not in the public interest. Jobs in the already threatened textile industry were at risk while he was at the helm.

But Lord Justice Ormrod, sitting with Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and Mr Justice Kenneth Jones, said the public would have been surprised if Lord Kagan had not been jailed. His thefts of valuable synthetic indigo dye and their concealment by false accounting amounted to deliberate frauds. The sentence was modest, the judge said.

The court had heard not only details of Lord Kagan's personal assets, and his profits from the

export of denim cloth to unscheduled territories were in bank accounts abroad.

The judge recalled that after an arduous and expensive investigation by the customs and tax authorities, Lord Kagan fled to Israel, France and Spain and had to be extradited to face trial.

He deserved little sympathy, the judge said. The plight of his companies had not stopped him saying abroad for a long time. His complaint about the disqualification from directorship was "bold".

The court was surprised that he had sought leave to appeal. Mr Gray told the judges that Lord Kagan, who arrived penniless in Britain in 1946, faced a bill of fines, tax indebtedness and legal costs totalling at least £1.5m.

Lord Kagan had been subjected to considerable stress before his crown court appearance and to sensational and sometimes scurrilous press publicity. He had also been discredited and infinitely saddened by the withdrawal this week of the royal warrants for which he had worked extremely hard.

Mr Gray added: "He cannot, and does not, make any complaint about that. But he was, very rightly, proud of his achievement, and this is yet another commercial disaster. Mr Gray said the public accepted that evil-doers had to be deterred, but Lord Kagan was not a public menace, and his release now would be of immense practicality. Otherwise his companies faced the prospect of 'still looms in echoing sheds'.

Gallery gets Holbein allegory for £246,000

By Geraldine Norman

The National Gallery of Scotland has acquired one of the last paintings in private hands by Hans Holbein the Younger, the great sixteenth-century artist who became court painter to Henry VIII.

The picture is an "Allegory of the Old and New Testaments"; it has been in England at least since the early 1800s, but it has only recently been recognized as the work of Holbein.

The gallery took full advantage of the tax concessions available for private treaty sales to public institutions and paid £246,000 for it; that would imply an open market valuation for the picture of more than £600,000. The negotiations were handled by Christie's.

Holbein is best known as a portraitist; he was sent abroad to paint Henry VIII's prospective brides. But a number of important religious and subject pictures by him are also known. This work, masqueraded under an attribution to Michael Ostendorfer until the 1960s; it was only in 1961 that Fritz Grossman identified it as the work of Holbein in a scholarly article in the *Burlington Magazine*.

That attribution was dramatically underlined last year when Dr John Fletcher, of the Oxford Research Laboratory for the History of Art, showed that the painting was one of five pictures by or attributed to Holbein to be painted on oak panels cut from the same tree.

That fact emerged during his research on a small panel of a



The Holbein religious work acquired by the National Gallery of Scotland.

"Man on Horseback", which was bought by the Getty Museum in Malibu, California, from the London trade for £15,000, in the hope that it might be a Holbein.

Dr Fletcher demonstrated, from the meticulous counting of tree rings on sixteenth-century oak panels, that one exceptionally ancient tree (about 370 years old) which was felled about 1512, appeared to have provided the panel supports for five paintings: the Getty panel, the "Allegory of

the Old and New Testaments", Holbein's famous "Noli Me Tangere" at Hampton Court, and two portraits in the Louvre, "Archbishop Warham" and "Niklaus Ktzer", astronomer to Henry VIII.

Dr Fletcher's work implies that the panels were probably acquired by Holbein in Antwerp on his way to England from Switzerland in 1526. The early history of the painting is unknown. It was acquired between 1810 and 1813 by one of the great British collectors

of the period, Henry Blundell, of Ince. His remarkable collection, including marbles (now in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool) and paintings, was inherited in the 1950s by Sir Joseph Welford.

Christie's negotiated the sale to the National Gallery of Scotland on behalf of the trustees of the Welford estate at Lulworth, Dorset. The painting was acquired with the help of a £73,000 grant from the new National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Glasshouse salads subsidy is rejected

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

The Government yesterday rejected a claim for an immediate subsidy of at least £7m for farmers who grow salad crops and flowers in glasshouses. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told 400 farmers who demonstrated outside his ministry: "I understand your impatience".

He addressed them after hearing from Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, that subsidies in Holland ensured that the fuel cost of producing glasshouse tomatoes there was half as much as in Britain.

Mr Walker was faced with a placard saying: "Keep the hot air in the glasshouse, not in the ministry".

The minister urged the farmers to suspend their demands for a subsidy for a fortnight, when it would become clear whether the Dutch Government would comply with orders from the European Commission to drop its subsidy.

"If they have not complied by the end of the month they will be taken before the European court", Mr Walker said. "I believe they will comply with the commission's request. Mr Butler told reporters: "The industry is in desperate straits."

He added that a British subsidy would be authorized in Brussels because France and Germany were already paying temporary subsidies to match the Dutch aid.

Leonardo codex is flown to US

By Frances Gibb

White-gloved security men gingerly displayed a leaf of the £2.2m Leonardo da Vinci manuscript, the Codex Leicester, at Claridge's yesterday just an hour before it left on a private Boeing 727 for its new permanent home in the United States. Its owner, Dr Armand Hammer, aged 82, chairman of Occidental Petroleum, was granted a licence by the Government yesterday to export the manuscript, henceforth to be known as the Codex Hammer.

It will, however, go on display in Britain for three months every year until Dr Hammer's death and for 10 years after.

He bought the manuscript, the last by Leonardo known to be in private hands, for £2.2m (£2.4m with buyer's premium charged by the auctioneers) in December at Christie's, when it was put up for sale by Lord Coke, son of Lord Leicester, to meet tax liabilities on the Holkham Hall estate.

The Government delayed the granting of an export licence for a month to give British museums and galleries a chance to match the purchase price. Its permanent home in the United States will be the Los Angeles County Museum.

Photograph, page 16

Moonies are not Christians, theologian says

The Unification Church was described as "blasphemous" by a Scottish theologian in the High Court in London yesterday. Dr Ian Torrance, of Edinburgh, said the church, led by Sun Myung Moon, had no right to call itself Christian.

"There is an old-fashioned word for what they do, blasphemy", Dr Torrance said.

Mr Geoffrey Shaw, for the church's United Kingdom director, Mr Dennis Orme, asked Dr Torrance whether the church would be included in a history of world Christianity.

"They might get a place among a section on Christian heresies", Dr Torrance replied. Dr Torrance was giving evidence on behalf of Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, on the ninety-second day of the hearing of a damages claim brought by Mr Orme alleging libel.

Mr Orme complains that an article in the *Daily Mail* in 1978 falsely alleged that Moonies "brainwashed" converts.

The hearing continues on Tuesday.



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Our competitors seem to think that one type of tyre, or even three, are enough to satisfy the needs of all fast cars. Not us.

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They're twice as wide as they are deep.

And they'll keep more of their computer designed tread on the road in a tight corner than any other tyre made.

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They reach such heights in comfort, quietness and performance on luxury saloons that Rolls Royce already fit them as standard on their new models.

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They're made for the latest generation of fast sports saloons like the Audi 80 and the new Ford Escort XR3.

They give a smoothness of ride never before obtainable on extra wide tyres.

Their steel breakers have a nylon wrap which shrinks at running temperature minimising tread movement and maximising cornering capability.

The D6 is just as silently impressive

on BMWs and Mercedes. While the D2 matches the crisp handling requirements of executive saloons like the Rover 2600 and Peugeot 505.

All in all, you'll find there's a tyre in the new Dunlop D-range that's better designed for your car than your present ones.

Simply because it was specifically designed for your car.

And not for someone else's.

The new D-range of performance tyres.

DUNLOP

London bus and Tube crews go to charm class

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Travel on London buses and the Underground should become a pleasant experience in the months ahead as London Transport staff benefit from their new courtesy course.

More than 3,000 staff have taken the course, which aims to show how to give a friendly welcome to every customer and to promote skilful handling of difficult situations.

The programme, has strong support from Sir Peter Masefield, chairman of the London Transport Executive, who says: "Courtesy, consideration and good manners are very high on our list of priorities. A happy passenger comes back for more, an unhappy one spreads unhappiness about London Transport, which must be bad for us."

The message I am trying to get across to all our staff is that passengers are the purpose of our life, and not an interruption in our business."

As an example of "the standard we are aiming at," Sir Peter points to Mr Kenneth Aung, a jovial Burmese bus conductor who daily cheers up hundreds on the 137 route between Crystal Palace and Archway. Traveling on his bus from Sloane Square yesterday was indeed a joyful experience. "Good afternoon, sir, welcome on board, plenty of seats at the front", was his greeting.

A ready hand reached out for parcels and pushchairs, and he welcomed a regular customer with: "Hello darling, how are you?"

Mr Aung, aged 59, is married with three children, and is a Buddhist. "I give them a smile and I get a nice smile back", he says. "You have to be nice to them. It is the passengers who pay our wages."



Mr Kenneth Aung: A transport of delight.

Mr Aung, Sir Peter says, is "practising in a splendid way the philosophy I am preaching. I have had several comments from passengers that his bus is a joy to ride on."

The course is at London Transport's Chiswick training centre, where vivid tapes of "crisis situations" help to mould the courteous conductor of the future.

Remand for youth in murder case

A youth aged 16 accused of the murder of a police sergeant and the attempted murder of a police inspector was remanded in custody for a week in Bradford Juvenile Court yesterday. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

He is charged that on March 12 at Bradford, he and another youth aged 16, also from Bradford, were accused of taking a Ford Capri car without the owner's consent. The second youth was remanded on bail until May 22.

BL assembler changes plea over stolen parts

One of five men accused over an alleged plot to sell stolen BL spare parts yesterday changed his plea and admitted handling car parts stolen from the company's Longbridge factory.

Joseph Keogh, aged 23, an assembler, pleaded guilty at Birmingham Crown Court to conspiring to handle stolen parts, but still denies conspiracy.

Four other Birmingham men deny conspiring to steal or conspire to handle. They are: Brian Harris, aged 41, of Leasow Road, Rubery; Joseph Edwards, aged 40, of Pennard Road, Quinton; Daniel Francis Sheehan, aged 34, of Bodenhall Road, Northfield; and Paul Edward Morris, aged 21, of Six Acres, Woodgate Valley. The trial continues on Monday.

The 'open' zoo that was started 50 years ago

Whipsnade Zoo is about to celebrate an important anniversary. It is 50 years since it was opened, the first "open" zoo where rare and exotic animals could graze in spacious surroundings.

In the intervening years the zoo, in its picturesque setting on the slopes of Dunstable Downs, has provided pleasure to millions of visitors and, on the scientific side, earned an international reputation for its breeding successes and conservation of endangered species.

The main responsibility for its creation was Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, secretary of the Zoological Society of London, who favoured a more natural habitat for the animals than the traditional kind of cage.

The society bought a derelict estate and transformed it over a 10-year period into a landscaped park. The development provided work for unemployed men from depressed areas.

Old chimneys were converted into sheltered enclosures for lions and tigers, thickets were cleared and trees planted. A gypsy encampment was moved, roads were built and a high fence was erected round the six-mile perimeter.

Visitors to Whipsnade can either walk around areas of the park or drive through. There are now nearly half a million visitors a year and about 46,000 cars.

Attractive though it is to visitors, Whipsnade plays a less important role in conservation work. There are 2,000 animals there of 190 different species, many of which wander freely about the parkland. Most have been bred at Whipsnade, although some have come from other zoos in exchange for surplus animals.

The original design for the park was so far-sighted, taking

Life and leisure

Cyril Bainbridge

account of the natural contours of the land and with well planned roads and viewing positions, that little change has been necessary.

Some new designing is to be undertaken, however, involving the resting of some of the animals so that visitors will see them on a geographical basis.

It is also planned to have a complex of more conventional zoo buildings near the main gate, so that winter visitors or those who can spend only a short time there will be able to see some of the animals under cover.

But, as an official of the society said, the zoo will continue to put the breeding of animals first. That part of the work at Whipsnade has developed to such an extent that 90 per cent of the animals there were born in captivity and 80 per cent were bred at Whipsnade.

"The plan is to build up breeding groups of animals and to continue with the exchange of animals from one zoo to another", the official said.

"This is a new trend in zoo management, very evident today."

The emphasis is on the welfare of a species as a group and Whipsnade has the advantage of being sufficiently spacious to accommodate groups of animals.

On the actual anniversary of the opening day, May 23, visitors will be admitted at the equivalent 1931 prices of 5p for adults and 2 1/2p for children.

America turns down propaganda volume on El Salvador crisis

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 13

The State Department has decided that it has been overdoing things in its efforts to arouse the world to the dangers of communism in El Salvador. In a background briefing yesterday, a senior official said: "Our impression is that this story is running about five times as big as it really is."

He admitted grudgingly that the prominence given to the story was entirely the result of the department's own, strenuous efforts.

Ambassadors were sent on tours of Europe, volumes of documents proving the extent of communist infiltration were published and the President, the Secretary of State, and lesser officials missed no opportunity of illustrating the importance of El Salvador in saving the world from communism.

Just a few days ago, officials were explaining the "domino effect" in Central America: first Nicaragua went, now El Salvador is under attack, Guatemala and Honduras are next, with Mexico in line behind them.

That is all changed now, and the department wants the press to turn its attention elsewhere. Various explanations for the sudden reversal have been offered. One is that the Administration's first, very strong, denunciations of Nicaraguan, Cuban and Soviet intervention in El Salvador have had their effect.

The flow of arms to the insurgents seems to have dropped sharply, and the Administration has postponed a decision on whether all aid to Nicaragua should be ended permanently.

Aid was suspended because of Nicaragua's participation in the supply of arms to the rebels and a deadline for stopping it permanently, set a month ago, is now upon us—and has been extended.

Another reason for playing down the importance of El Salvador is that American insistence on it was beginning to annoy America's allies, notably Canada and West Germany, who failed to see the situation in the same apocalyptic terms once used by the Americans.

Nicaragua strongly denies El Salvador arms traffic

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Allegations by the United States that Nicaragua had been acting as a bridge for the supply of arms from Communist countries to the rebels in El Salvador were denounced as a "total, complete and categorical lie" by Father Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Minister for Foreign Affairs, in London yesterday.

Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, a special envoy of President Reagan, toured EEC capitals last month with documents said by the Americans to demonstrate the existence of such arms traffic.

Father d'Escoto is to fly to Brussels and then Paris today as he winds up a similar European tour that has lasted a fortnight.

Talks with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, on Thursday had left Father d'Escoto with the impression that Britain was "perhaps the only country in Europe to have been persuaded by the American line."

Colonel José San Martín, former head of the general staff of Spain's elite Brumete Armoured Division stationed near Madrid, has been accused of leading military rebellion arising from last month's failed coup, the Defence Ministry said today.

The colonel, who was chief of intelligence under Admiral Carrero Blanco, was seen by Franco's Prime Minister in the 1970s, was said to be the brains among the plotters.

A professor, he had carried out postgraduate studies in economics and politics in both Spain and France.

One of the Civil Guard officers who took part in the assault on the Cortes on February 23 and who was detained, has now been reported missing.

American denial: The United States Embassy, stung into the capital by an accusation that it had advanced knowledge of a coup attempt, today dismissed as "gross and malicious misrepresentation" charges that Washington's loyalty to Spanish democracy wavered on the night of the coup.

An embassy spokesman defended Washington's commitment to Spanish democracy and made particular reference to Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, who is the focus of Spanish criticism.

"The United States and Secretary Haig have strongly supported Spanish democracy for the past five years in every possible way and will continue to do so," the spokesman said.

"Any assertions that the United States Government withheld support for democracy while it waited to see the outcome of the coup attempt is a gross and malicious misrepresentation."

Two generals, 17 Civil Guard officers, and a Franco union leader have already been charged in connection with the coup attempt. Two more generals and 61 Civil Guards are under arrest, awaiting charges.

—UPL

Furthermore, other South American countries all advocate a political rather than a military solution to the crisis.

Probably still more important are domestic considerations. Opposition to American involvement in El Salvador is building up rapidly and although the differences with Vietnam are great the "Vietnam syndrome" was being invoked successfully to oppose sending American advisers to El Salvador.

The President is engaged in a life or death struggle over his budget and does not want public attention distracted by secondary issues. This is all rather hard on Mr Robert White, the former American ambassador to El Salvador, who was dismissed from the Foreign Service for opposing an exclusively military approach to the problem.

He said on Wednesday that he was being offered as a sacrificial lamb on the altar of extreme conservatism.

Conservatives, particularly some influential senators, are greatly displeased at Mr Alexander Haig's nominations for senior positions in the State Department and White feels that he was dismissed in a retaliatory gesture.

The crisis in Central America will continue, whatever turns State Department proposals may take. Fifteen more American soldiers are being sent to El Salvador, a training team of Green Beret special troops, bringing the number of American military personnel there to about 60. An additional four American helicopters will be sent to join the six already there.

At the same time, American officials are expressing disquiet at the rapid build-up of the Nicaraguan National Guard, a government spokesman said today that the Army was being increased to 50,000 men, far larger than earlier Nicaraguan armies (including President Somoza's National Guard) and the department considered it "a contribution to instability" in the region.

The Nicaraguans say they need the bigger Army to protect themselves from a revolution by exiled National Guardsmen, including the late President's son.

Nicaragua strongly denies El Salvador arms traffic

In fact, his own experience during Nicaragua's civil war had convinced him that the easiest place to get arms was on the American black market.

El Salvador itself had not accused Nicaragua of the involvement alleged by the Americans. A State Department spokesman added, as a practical matter, he added, it was important that arms brought in from outside should be compatible with those that might be captured in battle.

Father d'Escoto was keen to stress that the Nicaraguans wanted better relations with the Americans, as with Britain. He said some sympathy for the United States, he added, as a country "beset with deep anxieties and horrible obsessions".

As an earnest of that sympathy, Father d'Escoto, describing the population of his country as "less than the smallest New York borough", made on their behalf what he described as "a solemn revolutionary promise: never to invade the United States."

Colonel accused of role in Madrid rebellion

From Our Own Correspondent
Madrid, March 13

Colonel José San Martín, former head of the general staff of Spain's elite Brumete Armoured Division stationed near Madrid, has been accused of leading military rebellion arising from last month's failed coup, the Defence Ministry said today.

The colonel, who was chief of intelligence under Admiral Carrero Blanco, was seen by Franco's Prime Minister in the 1970s, was said to be the brains among the plotters.

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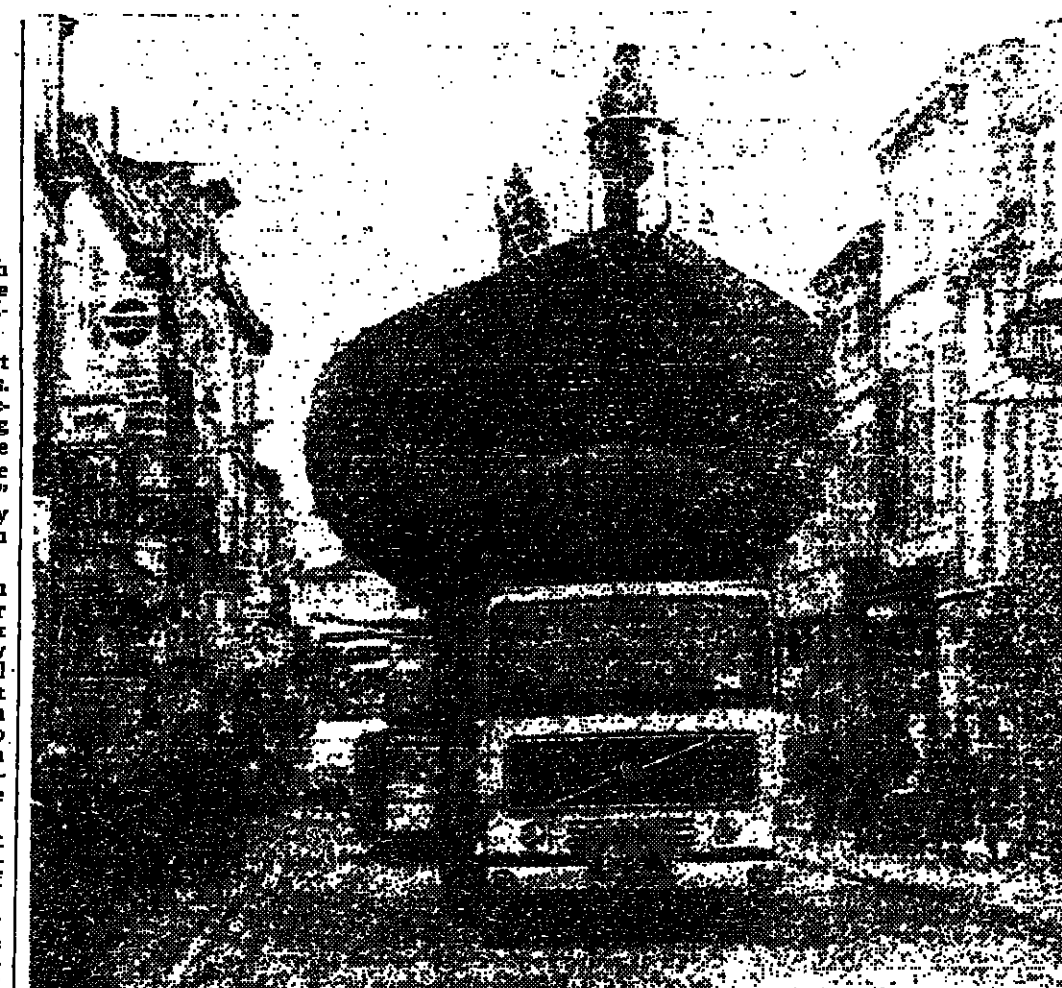
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"Any assertions that the United States Government withheld support for democracy while it waited to see the outcome of the coup attempt is a gross and malicious misrepresentation."

Two generals, 17 Civil Guard officers, and a Franco union leader have already been charged in connection with the coup attempt. Two more generals and 61 Civil Guards are under arrest, awaiting charges.

—UPL



Eric Tabarly's yacht Pen Duick 6 passing through the streets of Marans, western France, on the way for an overhaul.

Aid for Grenada airport opposed

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 13

The United States has urged EEC governments to refrain from giving financial aid for the construction of an international airport in Grenada.

The Americans apparently fear that Cuba, which has close ties with the Grenada Government, could use the airport as a military base.

The left-wing regime of Mr Maurice Bishop came to power in Grenada in a coup in 1979, deposing Eric Gairy, who had good relations with Washington. The Americans have cold-shouldered the new regime and recently withheld hurricane relief aid.

Among those invited to attend a meeting of the potential aid donors in Brussels next month are, in addition to the EEC countries, the United States, Canada, Sweden, Mexico, Venezuela, various Arab countries and Cuba.

It is argued in Brussels that the best way of preventing Grenada becoming dependent on Cuba for economic support is to diversify the island's sources of external aid.

Meanwhile, it was learnt today that the EEC is to release £800,000 of emergency food and relief aid for the victims of the civil war in El Salvador, after hearing a report from Red Cross officials.

Osensibly, the Americans justify their attitude by pointing to Mr Bishop's failure to hold elections, his banning of an Opposition newspaper and detention without trial of officials of the previous Government. But it is Cuba's involvement that is thought to be the real reason.

The American démarche has caused embarrassment and anger in Brussels. M. Claude Cheysson, the EEC commissioner in charge of relations with developing countries, has been helping the Grenada Government to put together a consortium of countries willing to finance the \$35m (about £14m)-airport project.

Western diplomats said the movement first appeared as the Pakistan Liberation Army and consisted of Bhutto supporters, leaving students and dissident Army officers. It sought support among Pakistani workers abroad, particularly in Gulf countries and Libya.

According to its underground newspaper, which began circulating in Pakistan late last year, the group changed its name to Al-Zulfikar (The Sword), the former Prime Minister's first name.

The newspaper, also called Al-Zulfikar, said the group claimed responsibility for several bomb explosions in the urban tribal areas along Pakistan's frontier with Afghanistan. It urged Pakistanis to overthrow the military ruler, General Zia ul-Haq, who removed Mr Bhutto in July, 1977.

The Pakistani Government says the hijackers are the Boeing which is now in Syria had reported that the Secretary-General of Al-Zulfikar was Mr Muratza Bhutto, aged 26, the former Prime Minister's elder son.

Western diplomats said Mr Bhutto, who frequently visited Arab countries and now lived mainly in Kabul, which had become Al-Zulfikar's headquarters.

A European diplomat formerly based in Kabul said he was introduced to Mr Muratza Bhutto at an official function organized by the Soviet-installed Government last year. Foreign journalists have reported seeing him on flights from Kabul to Delhi.

General Rahim Khan, the Pakistani Defence Secretary, said last week that when the hijacked airliner arrived in Kabul, Mr Muratza Bhutto embraced the hijackers and told Afghan officials near by that "these are our boys and they have succeeded in their first mission."

Several western and Middle East diplomats in Islamabad confirmed that Mr Muratza Bhutto was in Kabul before the hijacking and claiming that he worked closely with the Afghan authorities.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have long protected and encouraged each other's opponents. Mr Bhutto's Government gave arms and financial support to Islamic fundamentalists for an abortive uprising north of Kabul in the mid-1970s, the diplomats said.

The remnants of the same group, now led by Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, are waging a guerrilla war against the Government in Kabul. They had the support of General Zia ul-Haq, the former Pakistani President, who was overthrown by the Soviet-installed Government last year.

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US director of World Bank quits over cuts

From Frank Vogl
United States Economic Correspondent
Washington, March 13

Mr Colby King, the US director of the World Bank, has resigned in protest at the Reagan Administration's foreign aid policies. In a letter to President Reagan, he said: "Now is not the time to undermine our influence in the World Bank and in global economic development."

Mr King, appointed by President Carter in 1979, agreed to remain at his post until the new Administration found a successor. President Reagan has yet to nominate a new representative to the bank, but Mr King found it too difficult to carry out policies that run counter to those he supported on behalf of the Carter Administration.

In his letter of resignation, he emphasizes that he hopes new Administration study foreign aid will conclude "it is absolutely crucial to the United States to continue its strong support for World Bank."

He writes that "the situation is quite simply, are too high" the United States to risk entering its World Bank post.

Half of Rome's bus staff defy strike call

From John Earle
Rome, March 13

In a trial of strength with unions, half the bus staff in Rome and Naples were on strike today despite a 24-hour transport strike called throughout the country. Three unions are pressing for more pay, with demands ranging from 50 to 80,000 lire (22 to £35).

In Rome and Naples, however, spontaneous strike committees have formed to demand higher awards.

Staff of Rome's two underground lines obeyed the strike call and the lines were a

condone hijacking, but as that extreme acts were in able after three and a years of military repression.

They told reporters, being jailed for three months to the best of their knowledge. Mr Bhutto is still in London rewriting a constitution for his country.

He was at Oxford University at the time of his father's death with his younger brother Shah Nawaz. They have not turned to Pakistan, Muratza Bhutto, the opponent of General Zia, the diplomats said.

Pakistan has accused Kabul of collusion in the hijacking. It says the hijackers had only pistols when they took the aircraft to Kabul, but they were armed with Stenguns, grenades, two bombs and more pistols when it left for Damascus.

The link between Mr Muratza Bhutto and his mother, Nurat, and sister, Benazir Bhutto, is most significant in the Pakistani People's Party (PPP) is unclear. The Government says Al-Zulfikar is the party's armed wing.

The two women denied government charges that the PPP was involved in the hijacking. They said the party did not

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They told reporters, being jailed for three months to the best of their knowledge. Mr Bhutto is still in London rewriting a constitution for his country.

He was at Oxford University at the time of his father's death with his younger brother Shah Nawaz. They have not turned to Pakistan, Muratza Bhutto, the opponent of General Zia, the diplomats said.

Pakistan has accused Kabul of collusion in the hijacking. It says the hijackers had only pistols when they took the aircraft to Kabul, but they were armed with Stenguns, grenades, two bombs and more pistols when it left for Damascus.

The link between Mr Muratza Bhutto and his mother, Nurat, and sister, Benazir Bhutto, is most significant in the Pakistani People's Party (PPP) is unclear. The Government says Al-Zulfikar is the party's armed wing.

The two women denied government charges that the PPP was involved in the hijacking. They said the party did not

Quebec goes to polls next month after budget of tax cuts

From John Best
Ottawa, March 13

A general election will be held in Quebec on April 13, it was announced by Mr René Lévesque, the Premier, in Quebec City last night. This was two days after his Parti Québécois (PQ) Government had introduced a budget offering a wide range of tax cuts and other benefits to the province's six million people.

With dissolution of the legislature, the budget debate was cut off and the budget itself largely rendered lifeless. Some of its sales tax concessions had taken effect on Wednesday.

Mr Lévesque insisted that the PQ plan for Quebec's independence from Canada, in a form called sovereignty-association, will not be an issue in the one-month campaign.

However, opposition to the federal Liberal Government's plan to bring home the Canadian constitution, embodied in the 1987 British North American Act, would be a plank in the PQ platform.

Quebec is one of the eight provinces out of Canada's 10 which are fighting the federal scheme, by which the constitution would be "patriated" after Westminster has attached an amending formula and a Bill of Rights.

Mr Lévesque predicted that the PQ will win 75 of 122 seats to be contested—the number of ridings is being enlarged from the present 110.

Mr Claude Ryan, leader of the provincial Liberal opposi-

tion, said he expected a hard-fought campaign, but he declined to predict the outcome.

It is doubtful whether Mr Lévesque will succeed in his intention to keep the campaign focused on the issue of good government, and away from his party's stand for Quebec independence. The PQ lost a provincial referendum on its sovereignty-association plan last year, with 60 per cent of the voters opposing it.

Mr Ryan said one of the Liberal campaign themes will be the destiny of Quebec within Canada. And in Ottawa, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Liberal Prime Minister, who comes from the predominantly French-speaking province, said that the Parti Québécois is still a separatist party.

For tactical reasons the PQ might pretend otherwise but it was obvious to Mr Trudeau that "the aim of that party is to take Quebec out of consideration and I don't see why it should be rewarded at the polls".

The Prime Minister said that he favoured a statement by Mr Ryan to the effect that the provincial Liberals would campaign without the support of the federal party.

The PQ displaced the Liberals as the ruling party on November 15, 1976, winning 71 out of 110 seats, but it has since lost 11 by-elections to the Liberals.

The outcome of the election could turn on whether the Union Nationale, the right-wing party, achieves anything of a revival. If it does, it could be at the expense of the Liberals.

Police arrest 68 at protest by mothers

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, March 13

Sixty-eight people were arrested yesterday at a demonstration by the mothers of Plaza de Mayo—women who are demanding to be told the whereabouts of their missing relatives—and later released after being identified officially by police.

According to a statement issued by Señor Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, one of those detained yesterday was Father Antonio Puigfajana, a Franciscan who was accompanying the women.

The demonstrators were held on charges of breaking a law against public gatherings.

Señor Pérez Esquivel said in the statement issued by the organization for Peace and Justice, that the group was deeply concerned over yesterday's arrests, which cast doubt on a possible policy change by the future administration of General Roberto Viola, who takes office later this month.

Commons view on Canada now under fire

By George Clark,
Political Correspondent

The legal arguments of the Commons Select Committee on Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs about the procedure to be followed at Westminster when Canada applies for a revised constitution are likely to be challenged.

Sir Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Scrouse and chairman of the select committee, has been pressing for a speedy response to the committee's conclusions, so that their report and the Government's comments can be debated in the Commons before the Canadian request arrives.

Members of the committee understand that the Government's constitutional law experts are challenging the committee's conclusion that Parliament at Westminster still has a role to play in protecting the federal structure of Canada, and should heed the objections of the eight dissenting provinces.

Yugoslavia shaken by student rioting

From Dassa Trevisan
Belgrade, March 13

Student riots in Yugoslavia are worrying the authorities. An emergency session by the country's two highest political bodies, the Presidency of State and the President of the Communist Party, was held yesterday after student protests in Pristina, capital of the autonomous region of Kosovo.

The students' grievances are said to have been provoked by economic circumstances and by poor quality food in their canteen.

Their anger spilled into street riots which went through the night on Wednesday. Several thousand students are reported to have shouted protests against economic conditions and state bureaucracy.

They were involved in clashes with the police and in the early hours of yesterday the police dispersed a group of several hundred with tear gas.

An official announcement suggested that the students' grievances were being taken advantage of by "hostile elements".

Life at the university was back to normal yesterday. But the incident has raised some searching questions, and although it was started by what was an apparently bad dinner and a student finding a cockroach in his soup, its causes are more complex than that.

The young university in Pristina, now has 37,000 students in a city whose population grew from 18,000 in 1945 to the present 150,000, was the scene of the first Albanian riots when students made several demands, including the right to their own flag.

The danger of national clashes brought the Army to the scene. But money has been pouring in from other areas as, under the Yugoslav constitution, the region enjoys a special status obliging the more developed ones to assist.

This assistance has often been given grudgingly, since a lot of the money seems to have been used for the wrong type of project.

Even so, the gap, rather than narrowing, continues to widen and Kosovo remains Yugoslavia's principal problem since economic difficulties in such a sensitive region can easily engender extreme nationalism.

The latest rioting comes at a time when Yugoslavia faces many serious economic problems with the Government trying to curb inflation which last year was more than 40 per cent. Prices continue to rise and in the first two months of this year went up by 12 per cent, seriously affecting living standards.



The audience at Peking's first rock concert listening to Graham Earnshaw, correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph", who sang Beatle and Rolling Stone numbers.

Mr Begin cuts Labour lead in latest opinion poll

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, March 13

With less than four months to go until Israel's general election, an opinion poll published today discloses a significant narrowing in the gap between the current favourite, the opposition Labour Party, and the ruling right-wing Likud coalition, headed by Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister.

The poll, conducted for the Jerusalem Post among a sample of 1,285 Israelis, also predicts that a new centre party headed by Mr Moshe Dayan would win a total of 19 seats in the 120-seat Knesset Parliament, a greater number than indicated in any previous soundings.

Although today's poll still shows the Likud coalition heading for defeat, it shows that it has regained some of its lost popularity over the past month to give it 25 seats in the next Knesset, compared with only 20 when a similar poll was conducted last month.

Over the same period, Labour's predicted number of seats has dropped from 58 to 52. No reasons are given for the change but political observers believe it is largely attributable to the recent controversial series of tax and price-cutting measures introduced by Mr Yoram Aridor, Likud's new Finance Minister.

It is also noted that the decline in Labour's fortunes comes after a period in which Mr Begin has conducted two well-publicized election tours, designed to demonstrate the support his Government has given to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and to new Jewish suburbs in annexed East Jerusalem.

The high degree of support for a new centre party led by Mr Dayan is certain to increase further the chances of such a party being launched formally

and soldiers ejected the men forcibly at the end of their service.

The worshippers, residents of the Jewish suburb of Kiryat Arba, interrupted the rioters' tolerance today as an indication that the Government was coming round to recognizing Jewish rights in the shrine over the Cave of the Machpelah, revered as the burial place of the Biblical patriarchs and sacred to Jews and Muslims.

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Ecologist candidate gets Giscard party backing

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 13

Supporters of President Giscard d'Estaing are being urged to ensure that an ecologist candidate can stand in the first round of the presidential election.

For the moment, Mr Brice Lalonde, the candidate most likely to receive such help, is doing very badly in the opinion polls and could expect no more than 1 per cent of the vote.

Moreover, he has admitted that he is having trouble collecting the 500 signatures necessary to stand.

These are the signatures of support from the so-called "grand electors" of France. They number about 40,000 and comprise mayors and other elected representatives throughout the country. Nobody can stand for the presidency without the support of 500 of them from a minimum of 30 departments.

President Giscard d'Estaing's campaign headquarters this week learnt that there was a real chance that votes could be lost to the left if there were no ecologist candidate to vote for. It has been decided, therefore, to try to find the necessary 500 signatures for M Lalonde.

M Bernard Stasi, the president of the Centrist Party (CDS), which is one of those which make up the Giscard faction, accordingly appealed for support for the ecologists in a radio interview yesterday.

"It would not be normal if the ecologist movement were absent from the great debate, since it represents between 6 per cent and 8 per cent of the electoral body," he said.

Since M Lalonde had made it clear that he would not give his supporters any advice on how to vote in the decisive second round of the election, M Stasi said, there was no harm in helping him to stand in the first round.

At the same time, the President's campaign managers believe that such a move could deal a blow to the chances of M François Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate. It would help not only to show the President in a generous, liberal light, but would also attract votes

away from the Socialists in the first round.

The need to win and hold such tiny portions of the vote was underlined by the publication today of the latest Sofres opinion poll in *Le Figaro*. It shows that the President and M Mitterrand are once again neck-and-neck, each with 50 per cent support for the second round.

The poll is the first since the President announced his candidature and shows a 2 per cent improvement in his position from a Sofres poll a month ago.

At the same time, preference for the President as a first choice of the French voter is slipping constantly, while M Mitterrand's popularity is rising just as regularly. Last October, 34 per cent said they would vote for the President in the first round and only 19 per cent for his Socialist rival. Today's poll gives the President 29 per cent, compared with 25 per cent for M Mitterrand.

Of the other candidates included in the Sofres poll, only M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, with 15 per cent, and M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, with 16 per cent, score more than the 5 per cent a candidate needs to poll to win state aid for election expenses.

But the staunchly conservative *Le Figaro* does not include any mention in its poll of the musical comedian Coluche, who still says he intends to stand. He is, however, included in today's poll in *Le Quotidien de Paris*, which finds that he could expect up to 7.5 per cent of the first round vote—significantly more than any candidate other than the big four.

He said the superpowers wanted to create an unstable society of tension and crisis. "If the bazaar, schools, public offices... and newspapers become the scene of conflict, the end will be the suppression of the Islamic republic and nation and civil war."

The ayatollah said: "If hypocrites, troublemakers, and those who create chaos in the city do not stop, we will ask you to fight them."

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Ayatollah urged to intervene in crisis

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, March 13

The Ayatollah Khomeini is coming under pressure to end his week-long silence on the latest round of vehement political fighting between President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and his Muslim fundamentalist opponents.

Prominent clergymen today denounced the violence at a political rally held by the President more than a week ago and there was a warning that a course similar to that being pursued by the President would push the country towards civil war.

Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, the leader of Friday prayers in the holy capital of Qom, urged Ayatollah Khomeini to intervene to put an end to the crisis.

It was also reported that anti-Bani-Sadr demonstrators in Isfahan yesterday called on the ayatollah to "clarify to status of the counter-revolutionaries".

The ayatollah declared a week of public silence from last Friday, while issuing a short, rather vague statement condemning the violence.

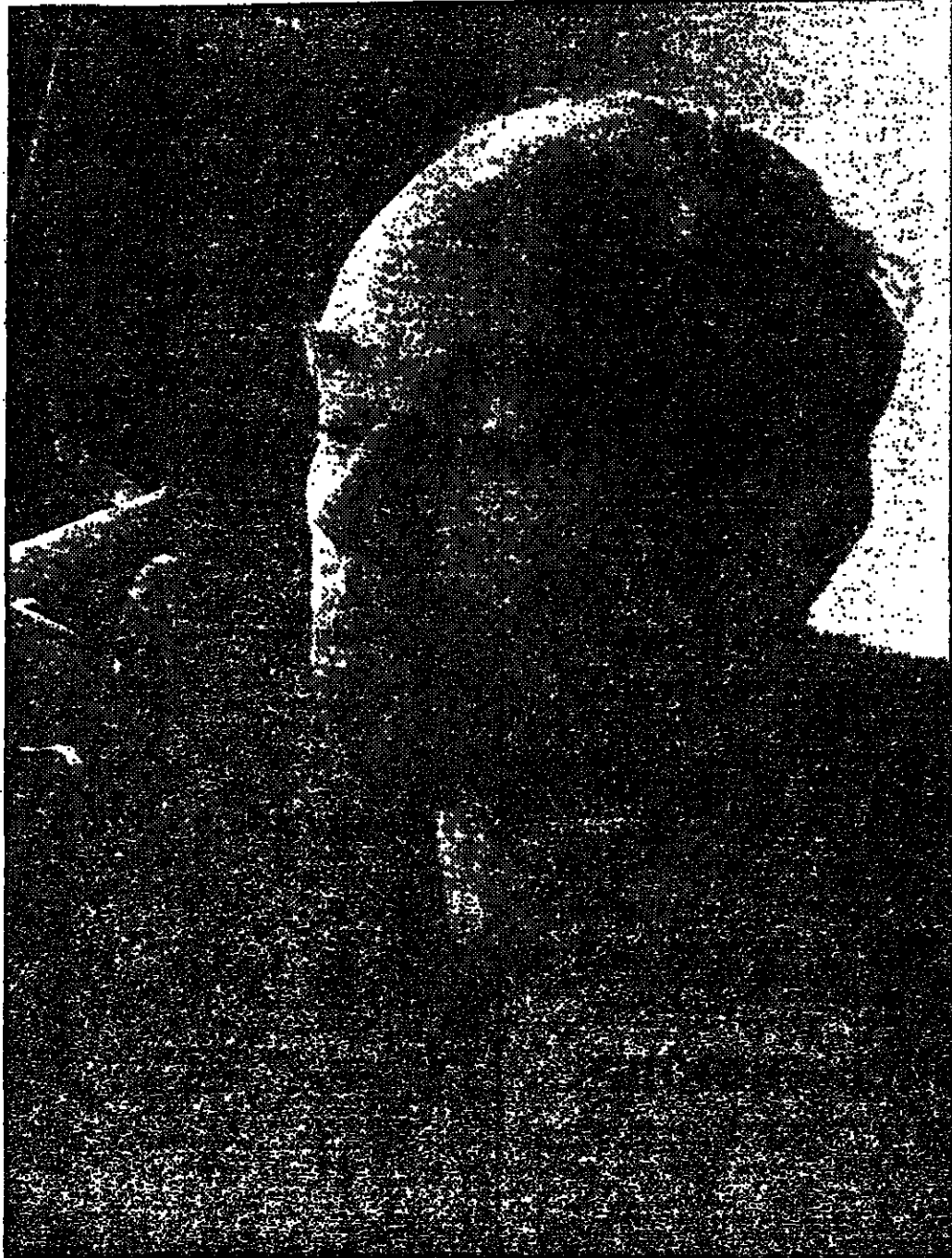
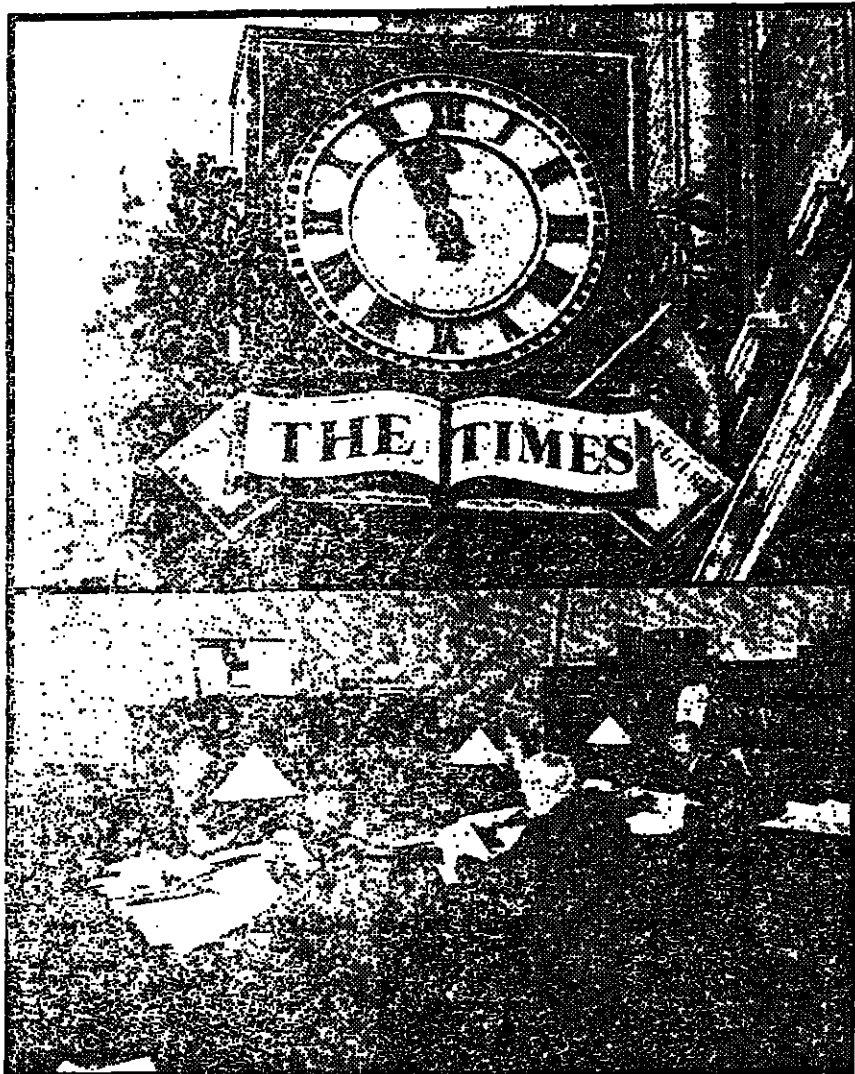
Political observers, a little unsure of exactly which way the political wind is now blowing, hope he might make one of his customary speeches tomorrow in which the subject will be brought up. The ayatollah's view is regarded as crucial to the outcome.

The length of his silence has puzzled diplomatic observers and as usual Tehran's rumour-mill has been quick to speculate that the ayatollah is again seriously ill or has fled the country. Both these notions have been categorically denied by the ayatollah's office.

Ayatollah Montazeri, speaking at his weekly prayers ceremony in Qom, also called for decisive legal action against the "

Saturday Review

Joining the Black Friars



Nothing sets a person up more than having something turn out just the way it's supposed to be. I was falling into a Swiss snowdrift and seeing a big dog come up with a little cask of brandy round its neck.

The first time I travelled on the Orient Express I was escorted by a woman who was later arrested and turned out to be a quite well-known international spy. When I talked with Al Capone there was a sub-machine gun poking through the transom of the door behind him. Ernest Hemingway spoke out of the corner of his mouth. In an Irish castle a sow ran right across the baronial hall. The first Minister of Government I met told me a most horrible lie almost immediately.

These things were delightful, and so was the first view of *The Times* office in London. In the foreign editorial room a sub-editor was translating a passage of Plato's *Phaedo* into Chinese, for a bet. Another sub-editor had declared it could not be done without losing a certain nuance of the original. He was dictating the Greek passage aloud from memory.

That very first evening I saw the chief sub-editor hand a man a slip of Reuter's agency "type" with two lines on it saying that the Duke of Gloucester on his world tour had arrived at Kuala Lumpur and held a reception. It would run to about half an inch of space, and on some newspapers I dare say might have been not ready for the printer in a matter of minutes. I was glad to see nothing of that kind happen here.

The sub-editor, a red-bearded man with blazing eyes, who looked like a cross between John the Baptist and Captain Kettle, had at the age of 20 or thereabouts written the definite grammar of an obscure Polynesian language and gone on to be a curious and brilliant for an Englishman—a professor of Chinese metaphysics in the University of Tokyo. He took the slip of paper into the library and then to the Anatomical Museum, where he sometimes used to go for a cold snack during *The Times* dinner hour.

His work on it was completed only just in time for the 10 o'clock edition. It had been a tricky job. "There are," he explained, "eleven correct ways of spelling Kuala Lumpur, and it is difficult to decide which should receive the, as it were, imprimatur of *The Times*."

All foreign correspondents believe sub-editors to be malignant troglodytes, happiest when casually massacring the most significant lines of an informed, well-balanced despatch. Sub-editors believe foreign correspondents to be flibbertigibbets, uselessly squandering enormous expense accounts, lazy and verbose, and saved from making fools of themselves in print only by the vigilance of the staff in the foreign room.

Sharing, myself, the correspondents' views of people working at the London headquarters, I was naturally nervous. However, *The Times* people proved genial and made kindly efforts to put me at

ease. One told me that, although the London climate was lethal, one could prolong life by getting up very early three times a week and travelling to Southend for a brisk 20 minutes' walk on the sea front. "And of course," he said, "being in the train so much gives one more time for thinking and reading." (He was, I need hardly say, a Fellow of All Souls.)

I said I hoped to be leaving shortly for New York. He was sincerely sorry for me—such an awfully long way from healthy Southend.

This conversation took place at tea, a rather serious function performed round a large oval table in a room on the ground floor of Printing House Square. We reached the office at about four in the afternoon and went straight down to tea and a half-hour's conversation before going up to the foreign room, a big, well-lighted place overlooking Queen Victoria Street, furnished principally by a long narrow table, extending from the inner wall almost to the windows. Junior members of the foreign staff like myself sat at the part of the table nearest to the chief foreign sub-editor. The seniors at the far end barricaded themselves with volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* or other large books and thus were able, as one of them remarked to me, to "get on with our work without being disturbed."

I did not at first see why this type of protection should be necessary, but later learned that several of them were engaged in writing historical works of their own, or authoritative treatises for various learned reviews, on the subject of which they were particularly expert. Mr Scott Moncrieff, the translator of Proust, worked there at one period, and I was told that the business of *The Times* was often held up for as much as a half hour at a time while everyone present joined expertly in a discussion of the precise English word or phrase which would best convey the meaning and flavour of a passage in *La Recherche du Temps Perdu*.

For further entertainment in the long evenings, someone had invented a game—a competition with a small prize for the winner—to see who could write the dullest headline. It had to be a genuine headline, that is to say one which was actually printed in the next morning's newspaper. I won it only once with a headline which announced: "Small Earthquake in Chile. Not many dead."

From five until about eight o'clock work continued without a break, and then people went to eat at their clubs or the *Times* dining-room or the canteen. Unless you were on late duty you finished work at about eleven o'clock.

At first I was fascinated by the work, but after a few weeks I became bored and rather nervous because I was still afraid that someone would notice that I had not gone through any of the proper hoops, and pack me off to Newcastle instead of New York. Sometimes it seemed to me that I caught one or other of the High Priests looking at me somewhat askance, as though, perhaps, I were not, after all worthy of *The Times*. My alarm was increased by the

Claude Cockburn (right) joined *The Times* office where staff (as in the Home Sub-Editors' Room, bottom left) competed to write the dullest headline.

by Claude Cockburn, foreword by Graham Greene

If I were asked who are the two greatest journalists of the Twentieth Century, my answer would be G. K. Chesterton and Claude Cockburn. Both are more than journalists: both produced at least one novel which will be rediscovered with delight, I believe, in every generation—"The Man Who Was Thursday" and "Ballantyne's Folly." Both are manic characters, writing with what some sad fellows may find even an excess of high spirits. Perhaps Claude Cockburn will prove to have been more influential, for he discovered the influence that can be wielded by a mimeographed news sheet. "The Week" anticipated ironically enough, considering that Cockburn was himself then a communist, the Samizdat publication in East Europe. Finally, if only to show that I have had my manic moments too, I would like to salute the only man with whom I have ever gone barrel-organing. The memory of that three day escapade is still fresh after nearly 60 years.

discovery that everyone already knew the story of something which had happened in Berlin one day when Ebbutt was on holiday and his place had been taken by a man called Pudge or something similar. Extensive unrest and street fighting were going on in Berlin at the time—I think it arose out of a demonstration on May Day. It was a confused situation and many people opposed to the unemployed demonstrators also thought the Prussian police were acting trigger-happy. Pudge, the newcomer, had no doubt that it was a straight fight of law and order versus the licentious mob. Any hesitant angels caught loitering were apt to get a sharp pushing around when Pudge rushed on to the scene.

Irked somewhat by his attitude I wrote, one afternoon when he was out watching the shooting of the despatch which I conceived Pudge would have written—From Our Own Correspondent in Jerusalem—had he been covering events there approximately two thousand years ago. It was a level-headed estimate studded with well-worn *Times* phrases. "Small disposition here," cabled this correspondent, "attach undue importance to tests raised certain fanatics result recent arrest and trial leading revolutionary agitator followed by what is known locally as 'the Calvary incident'." The despatch was obviously based on an off-the-record interview with Pontius Pilate. It took the view that so far from acting harshly, the Government had behaved with what in some quarters was criticized as "uncdue clemency." It pointed out that firm government action had definitely eliminated this small band of

extremists, whose doctrines might otherwise have represented a serious threat for the future. I put it on Pudge's desk. Glancing through it after a night's sleep and seeing familiar *Times* clichés—small disposition to attach undue importance. Government acting with firmness, hand of extremists—all bowing and scraping at him from every paragraph. Pudge did not bother to read it. He passed it, together with his own despatch, to the telephonist.

By a piece of ill-luck it chanced that *The Times* had recently reorganized its European telephone system, with the result that the Berlin office was used as a relay centre for despatches from a number of smaller capitals which formerly had communicated direct with London.

The telephonist was already vexed by the extra work involved. Now he came rushing back from the switchboard waving my despatch in a mauve fury.

"What's all this?" he shouted. "Are we taking flaming Jerusalem now?" Mr Pudge was abominably shocked. I had always hoped to hear someone use the phrase "in the worst possible taste." Pudge did. He did his best to bring home to me the appalling character of my action.

"Do you appreciate," he said, "that what you have done is to attempt to play a joke on *The Times*?" This he obviously felt was the most blasphemous aspect of an altogether blasphemous bit of work. And in my present state of anxiety it seemed to me that there were several people around Printing House Square who would probably share this view. I began to wonder whether the job that had been waiting for me was really the New York job or something quite different and,

from my point of view, unsuitable.

It was difficult to find out, because Mr Geoffrey Dawson had perfected a technique for not telling people anything much, and yet appearing at all times both approachable and communicative. His room had two doors. When you had been announced, and had entered, you found him standing in front of his desk, poised always on the same mark of the carpet, both hands slightly outstretched and his whole attitude that of one who has been unable to prevent himself bounding from his chair and rushing forward to meet you. Already touched and impressed, you were further overwhelmed by the warmth of his greeting and the voluble geniality of his conversation as he put his hand on your shoulder or took your arm.

There you were, pacing the floor of the sanctum of the Editor-in-Chief of *The Times*, and he concentrating on you while his secretary, you could imagine, told anxious cabinet ministers and bishops over the telephone that the editor was in conference. The effect was practically hypnotic, and in this state of partial hypnosis you were scarcely aware that with one arm across your shoulders the Editor was with the other hand opening the door at the far end of his office and pushing you gently into the corridor, bidding you a warm farewell after an interview which had lasted approximately eighty seconds.

Nothing had been promised, nothing decided; but for several hours you certainly felt that you had accomplished something or other.

As things stood I need not have bothered about my position because, without my knowing it, Sir Campbell Stewart, at the time one of the most energetic directors of *The Times*, and the man who

had played a major role in preventing the paper being acquired by Lord Rothermere after the death of Lord Northcliffe, had been kindly watching over my interest, for he was a Canadian and a friend of Uncle Frank. I had told my uncle that I wanted to go nowhere but New York—though I had concealed from him for full reason for so wishing. My Uncle Frank, who looked upon Europe as little more than a fascinating museum in which it was good for people on holiday to pass a certain amount of time each year, was enthusiastic about my decision, and he enlisted the help of Sir Campbell Stewart to ensure that I was not disappointed.

Sir Campbell Stewart lived with his mother in his suite at the top of the Hyde Park Hotel, and when I finally went to call on him there, he lay almost flat on his back in an armchair, and with his extremely long and angular legs extended to the fire, smiled at the ceiling in a whimsical manner as he explained to me the real reason for the delay in my appointment and the apparent inability of the Editor to make up his mind.

"They are afraid," he said, "of Louis Hinrichs."

This character, of whom I had never previously heard, immediately assumed formidable proportions in my eyes. To be a man of whom *The Times* was so stately afraid was sufficiently imposing. Who and what was Louis Hinrichs? And why was *The Times* afraid of him?

Well, it appeared that Louis Hinrichs was the New York Correspondent of *The Times* and had formerly been the Wall Street Correspondent of *The Times* and the *Daily Mail*

when the two papers were in the same ownership. *The Times*, said Sir Campbell Stewart, was afraid of him because he knew about finance. Wall Street, stocks and shares, things like that. Sir Campbell spoke of *The Times* with a mixture of respect and affectionate derision, as though of a distinguished but elderly uncle having venerable abilities and a good many more or less ludicrous quirks of character. Or, as I sometimes suspected, he felt himself rather in the position of the able butler when the entire family of aristocrats is marooned on a desert island and the butler, despite his comparatively lowly colonial origins, is the only one who knows how to deal with reality and pull them through.

Smiling at the ceiling, Sir Campbell Stewart explained to me that *The Times* had a certain awe of anybody who in fact understood finance. "They think, in fact," he began to giggle at the idea, "that Hinrichs is a holy terror."

The Times, in fact, liked its correspondents to be familiar with history, archaeology, the classics and the higher reaches of diplomatic society in which ever capital they happened to be established, but it was bothered by people who knew too much about money and economics and even tended to regard these subjects as of greater importance than the personal relationship existing between a cabinet minister, member of political Party A, with a politician, member of political Party B. The idea that they had a Correspondent who really understood Wall Street and positively regarded Wall Street and its problems as essential in the affairs of the world, was to *The Times* awe-inspiring. Hinrichs, in fact, was to them a Man from Mars. And in consequence one had to act pretty gingerly in deciding whom to send him as his office mate and Assistant Correspondent. Therefore everyone had to mark time until Hinrichs, in the late spring, arrived in London and could be confronted with the candidate for this office—that is to say myself.

Since I was determined to go to New York in any case, and the question of whether I went there with a comfortable amount of money and prestige or had to struggle off again under my own inadequate steam, depended upon this Louis Hinrichs, I was naturally in a nervous state of mind when I went to call upon him at the Waldorf Hotel at tea-time one afternoon. I can still recall more or less clearly the brutal figure I had expected to meet, and during the first 10 minutes of conversation with Louis Hinrichs I was tormented by the fear that some appalling mistake had been made and that I was talking to the wrong man. He peered at me over a cup of China tea with a mixture of hope and despair. By an extraordinarily courteous piece of acrobatics he managed to reverse our positions.

"I do hope," he said, "that after this meeting you will not reconsider your wish to come to work in New York."

As we drove down Fleet Street, he said, "You know I wish I did not have to go to *The Times*. I wish one could

simply telephone them to say that everything is all right, so that I hope to see you in New York soon. *The Times* frankly terrifies me."

Recalling vividly that he terrified *The Times*, I could think of nothing to say. He added just as the taxi swung in Queen Victoria Street, "You know, sometimes I feel that really ought to write a letter to *The Times* explaining them that I am not at all d sort of man they imagine am."

In Printing House Square I interviewed Mr Dawson, who was as usual delighted to find that "everything was right" and therefore required no supervision or attention of his part. We then went together to see Mr Rafi Deakin, entitled Foreign and Imperial News Editor. Mr Deakin was believed to be the originator of the statement that nothing was news until it had appeared in the column of *The Times* and at the period he gave—from his shining shoes to the beautiful brushed bowler hat on a rack behind him—an impression of mental and physical discretion and a composure which could have been a life-saver had it not been, in childish way, touchier. Certainly nobody could be guessed from his manner that he was the sort of man who would saddle himself with an employee of whom he clearly disapproved.

Deakin had never made a secret of the fact that he was dubious as to whether I was the "right type" for *The Times*. He was obviously a little surprised that Hinrichs should accept me. He would have expected me to stand a for someone a little more swell or else a little more business like in appearance. Resigned he turned from the immediate topic of my impending journey to New York to discuss the fate of one of my predecessors, a former assistant to Hinrichs who had been brutally murdered by the hangers-on of some Chinese war-lord under the walls of Peking. Hinrichs expressed his sorrow.

"Nevertheless," said Deakin, "he had his reward." Hinrichs and I, simultaneously startled by the observation on the death of that distinguished young man, exchanged rapid glances, each of us wondering what comment one could possibly make on such a statement. Also occurred to each of us at the time that this could only imply the existence of some bitter feud between Deakin and the victim of us was horrified to realize that Deakin apparently was prepared to continue the feud beyond the grave. There was a moment of danger and I began to feel that either of us might have made some extraordinary ill-placed remark, had no Deakin added with a note of extreme satisfaction in his voice, "Yes, he had his reward. I mean a column and a half obituary in *The Times*."

You see," said Hinrichs, "we left the building," "what mean about *The Times*?"

This extract is taken from *Cockburn Stuns Up by Claude Cockburn* to be published by Quercus Books on April 30 at £5.50

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Monday 7.30 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Lancelotti, cond. Beethoven: Piano Concerto in C, K.415, Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5, £5.50

Tuesday 7.30 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Lancelotti, cond. Beethoven: Piano Concerto in C, K.415, Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5, £5.50

Wednesday 7.30 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Lancelotti, cond. Beethoven: Piano Concerto in C, K.415, Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5, £5.50

Thursday 7.30 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Lancelotti, cond. Beethoven: Piano Concerto in C, K.415, Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5, £5.50

Friday 7.30 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Lancelotti, cond. Beethoven: Piano Concerto in C, K.415, Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5, £5.50

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In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, W.C.2, on the 14th day of March 1981, the following notice is given: That the annual general meeting of the company, ROBECCA, will be held at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, W.C.2, on the 14th day of March 1981, at 11.30 a.m.

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Ben Cross: getting it all together

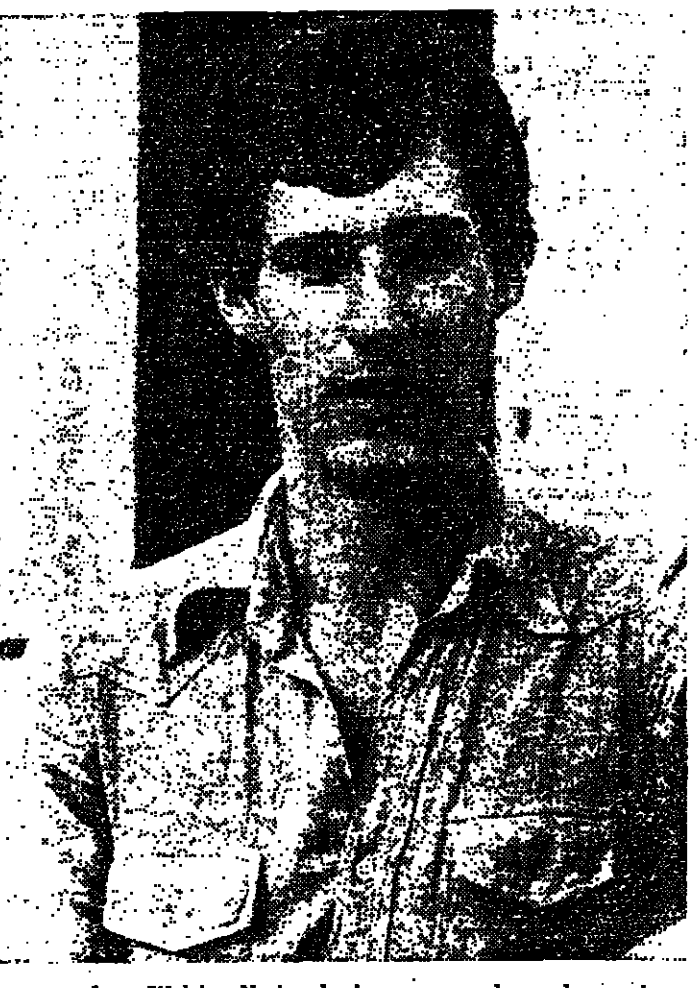
By the end of this month it is going to be very hard not to have heard of Ben Cross. On March 30 the final preview at the Apollo of a new musical, *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking it on the Road* (in which Mr Cross co-stars with Plane Langton) will be delayed for half an hour so that he can be across to the Odeon Leicester Square to be part of the line-up before the royal film performance of *Chariots of Fire* (in which Mr Cross co-stars with Ian Charleson) and within weeks of that there is the television start of an Elspeth Huxley series called *Flame Trees of Thika* (in which Mr Cross co-stars with Hayley Mills).

True, Mr Cross, who is now 33, has already managed to get himself above the titles of two major West End musicals (*Chicago* and *I Love My Wife*) without impressing himself very deeply on public consciousness, despite generally ecstatic reviews; but that may well have something to do with a faint British distrust of leading men who only do musicals, an image that he is now about to shed.

"Not only do I not sing in either *Chariots of Fire* or *Flame Trees of Thika*, I don't even get to sing in the Act either. It's a two-character show in which all the songs are sung by Diane Langton; I play the man who comes to see her and tries to stop her changing an old showbiz routine she has been doing for years into something more personal and 'liberated'. I'm there as her on-stage critic and it's rather a lovely feeling."

Brought up in Tulse Hill, the son of an Irishman who died when he was eight, Cross started doing school plays at a Catholic school in Brixton. At 15, he was in the school choir, he left school and home within the same week and got a job cleaning windows in Wimbledon, among them those of the theatre there.

"After a bit they were looking for someone to help out on the sets, so I started quick changing in *Jarcks*, a big loss Ackland musical which was starting out there, and that was how I got into the theatre. I regret now that I didn't spend longer at school; it means that I've never since been able to read a book that wasn't 'improving' in some way because I felt I had so much learning to catch up on. But from *Jarcks* on I got a lot of backstage work around the country, and by the time I was 21 I was a master car-



Ben Cross, who is now 33, has already managed to get himself above the titles of two major West End musicals (*Chicago* and *I Love My Wife*) without impressing himself very deeply on public consciousness, despite generally ecstatic reviews; but that may well have something to do with a faint British distrust of leading men who only do musicals, an image that he is now about to shed.

enter for Welsh National Opera.

"Then I went as a stage manager to Birmingham for a year or so, but it was getting to the point where I realized I'd seen enough acting to want to do it myself. It meant giving up very good money, backstage, but I auditioned for *RAID* in 1970 and got in at the same time as Jonathan Pryce. Then a stint in rep, a lot of understudying, and eventually Toby Robertson took me into his Prospect company for the season of *Pericles* and *Royal Hunt of the Sun*."

That was the Prospect season that eventually travelled to Leningrad, where a number of the company were actively involved in trying to free the Panovs. Cross was among the leaders.

"I managed to get reels of tape and film back to England to the Free The Panovs Committee, but there were bribes with KGB men in hotel lobbies and constant threats that the tape would be seized and we'd all be either expelled or arrested if we didn't behave ourselves; some of the company opted for a quiet life as 'just actors' but I couldn't see a way of remaining uninvolved, though neither the British Council who were sponsor-

ing us nor the embassy there was altogether delighted and I really did think for a while that the KGB were going to try to hold me as a trouble-maker."

Times are quieter now. Married to a former Miss London, Cross lives with her and her two young children in Chiswick and remains determined to think of himself as an actor who sometimes sings rather than a singer who sometimes acts.

"I ended up with Prospect doing the Chorus in *Henry V*, only they decided they wanted that sung as well; then I went to the RSC where I understudied Alan Howard in *Wild Oats*, only he is strong as an ox and never missed a performance. I also had a bit to do in *Privateers on Parade* but, when you find yourself at 10 o'clock in the morning in full make-up and period costume for an understudy run-through of a part you know you are never going to get the chance to play, that's when you have to move on."

From the RSC Cross got into *I Love My Wife*, which lasted more than a year at the Prince of Wales.

"Richard Beckinsale, who was a marvellous bloke, was in

that, and Liz Robertson went on to *My Fair Lady*. We had a rock band and it kind of fun except that the show was meant to be a wife-swapping until the interval when it copped more powerful it book had been more hot but that taught me how to carry a show because at Beckinsale was very new musicals, and it also got Chicago. They were almost rehearsal with that at 5 field and they still hadn't the lawyer who does the 'Razzle Dazzle' number; luckily they remembered that and that was 15 months together, first at the City and then in London.

"Somebody in that City cast asked me what I'd do when the show ended jokingly I said 'become a star' and sure enough later the phone rang and wanted me to audition *Chariots of Fire*, p. Harold Abrahams, the merre gold medalist at 1924 Olympics, who until was the only Englishman just about a runner; C Welland's script is a pe piece about the Twenties; anti-Semitism and what it like to be a world class runner at that time."

Between the film and stage rehearsals for the (which incidentally has kind of theatrical history being the first musical to advantage of the 1980 in ment act whereby backers are not professional spectators can reclaim any in they suffer against tax, a assuring thought before reviews are in) Cross down to Leatherhead to for Mark Cullum in a val of *Krull*.

"I hadn't done a sra play since leaving Prospect, less you count understudy Alan Howard, and I was to get back into harness, deeply ambitious, which in theatre for some inexpic reason you are not supposed to admit. And at a time every-body in the street has one-in-thirty chance of be on television it's not eve just to want to be a star, have to qualify yourself, everything is a right adm. You don't get to be I Hurry by a couple of it breaks. My main prob, though, is a distinct lack patience and tact in reher if you start as a stagehand get used to shooting your m and saying exactly what things you want along. Ac don't seem to be allowed luxury."

Sheridan Mor

The Golden Age Greenwich

Irving Wardle

As A. R. Gurney is the first to admit, his new play has much in common with Henry James' *The Aspern Papers* the tale of a literary sleuth who worms his way into the confidence of two arch-boarded ladies, and ingratiates himself so successfully with the younger of them that the precious manuscript goes up on the altar of sexual revenge.

In Mr Gurney's version it all happens in the antique-stuffed brownstone residence of Isabel Hastings Hoyt, a regal survivor of the jazz age, who firmly disclaims any connection with James' Isabel Archer but admits to being the model of Daisy Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*. Her long, undisturbed seclusion is broken by the arrival of Tom, the sleuth, who way round her housekeeping grand-daughter and requests her collaboration in a book of

celebrity memoirs. As well as regarding the 1920s as a golden age, Tom is a worshipper of Scott Fitzgerald, and he hits the roof at the rumour that Isabel's files include a lost chapter of *Isabel* in which the hero goes to bed with Daisy.

Isabel reluctantly agrees, in the hope of earning some money for the alcoholic, married Virginia, but not to the extent of revealing the *Gatsby* mystery. From that point, the piece advances to Tom's attempt at nocturnal burglary, and the betrayed Virginia's final destruction of a manuscript which she says only contained an old melodrama.

References to melodrama crop up frequently in the play, which itself aspires to that category. The plot is certainly melodramatic, but its other elements come from a kindly writer whose taste is for quiet humour and for giving his characters the benefit of the doubt. None of them has the ruthlessness the story demands. Tom is a genuine enthusiast. Not in the words of James' old lady, a "publishing scoundrel" Isabel is a charming, quick-

Rodelinda

William Mann

For several decades, lovers in Britain have insisted that Handel's have a permanent place in national repertoire along Mozart, Verdi and Wagner. Nobody denied it, and attempt was made from a public success. The first through was made two y ago with ENO's *Julius Ca* at once musically respect and a pleasure to the order devotee of *Carmen*. It is a time as the Welsh Nadi Opera's *Rodelinda*, which reviewed on this page by S. Sadie in January w Andrei Serban's new prou was first shown at Molt tour in Wales.

There were earlier productions here, of course. In 1909 the star was the Vic in 1939, with a product from Dartington Hall, but loving German prece (*Rodelinda* had been rev at Göttingen in 1920) fast loose was played with Hand vocal casting, musical struct and orchestral scoring. It was a famous production, Handel Opera Society, Sadler's Wells in 1959, w Joan Sutherland gave a to style and the title r with Janet Baker, an adtious star-in-lay Edgde.

What militated against po acceptance of Hand operas was the shortage singers conversant with style and grounded in the technique which was the musical grammar of those Those HOS performances l the foundations for a generation ready to s *Rodelinda* as ably and persi as even more. Waverne Edgde (we would call it mezzo-soprano part, and expe Miss Harby to play Rodelinda but Handel called all fema singers sopranos, because I wrote for a particular sing every time, which is why the many alternatives d i Messiah's WNO field, a mal counterpoint as the sufferin hero Berrando, Robin Marti Oliver fairly heroic substitut for the castrati of those day; musically much preferable t the baronnes who still take i roles in Germany.

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Gillian Hanna and Aviva Goldcorn.

Mourning Pictures

Tricycle

Ned Chaillet

Cancer is an epidemic, is the present-day plague. Few lives are untouched by it, but it does not make for easy art and the rare, popular drama that has explored it, such as *The Shadow Box* which has been turned into a television film by Paul Newman, usually keeps the pain at a distance and concentrates on the emotional trauma. That is understandable, although it is a false picture since the pain is central.

Honor Moore's play, *Mourning Pictures*, is about the pain and can be harrowing, both in the Christian sense of a delivery from hell and the more ordinary sense of distressing. It fails because the pain is poetically misplaced twice over. Miss Moore, herself a poet, is writing

autobiographically, from the vantage point of a daughter recording her mother's suffering and death, but there is a haze of confusion. The daughter in the play identifies so strongly with the mother that she takes the suffering on herself as far as she is able, and the actress in the part makes more of the daughter's fatigue than is shown of the mother's suffering.

There is a further distance added in Monstrous Regiment's production, now at Tricycle Theatre. The daughter's poetic addresses to the audience have been given a musical backing which seems to have the purpose of lessening the intensity of the story. Gillian Hanna stops speaking as the daughter so that Josefina Cupido can continue her thoughts with a song and that moves the story into an artifice that contradicts the clinical directness of the production.

Yet there is much of value in the play, particularly in the carefully worked language which Miss Moore uses to describe the feelings of her characters, and in the descriptions of the "cancer" under "ground", the non-medical cures which the mother tries in her fight. The play, which is American, transcends the local and the private because of its poetic dimensions, and because it does not ever see the cancer as necessarily triumphant. There are miraculous cures and the fight to survive is always heroic.

The production by Penny Charis could be less cluttered, but it has strengths in its imagery, with characters slipping into the story from behind venetian blinds that define the sickness. Even the music, when it is not elevated to song, has value, nagging away in the sum, nights like crickets at dusk.

The final performance in the WNO season at the Dominion tonight, Die Frau ohne Schatten, starts at 5.30 pm, not at 6.00 pm as stated on this page yesterday.

Collecting

Transforming titanium into dreamscapes

On the face of it titanium has little to recommend it to the craftsman. Difficult to bend or hammer into shape, impossible to cast, weld or solder by ordinary means, it must be one of the most cursed and intractable of metals. The best way to shape it is to cut it—and even then it puts up a fiendish resistance to the file or saw.

Titanium has been known as a metal since the mid-nineteenth century; small wonder it took the jeweller another hundred years to discover in it a property so extraordinary as to overwhelm its formidable disadvantages. For titanium takes a patina through its surface flounds with pinks, golds, bronzes, violets and peacock blues.

By controlling and localizing the source of heat, the jeweller can use this property to transform a pattern or even paint a picture. Edward de Laage quite literally does the latter by wiring up a camel hair water-colour brush in a battery—even dipping it in water to make a positive electrical contact with the surface of the titanium. There is more to it than that, of course, and the curious surreal images which he imprints on the surface of his titanium are the result of an elaborate system of masking and the most meticulous draughtsmanship.

One is left wondering whether they exist in another world or another dimension, these tranquil desert dreamscapes haunted by pyramids and monoliths encased in tiny river settings like the genie in the bottle.

The large also makes bracelets and collars of irresistible simplicity. The slim titanium, curved into a crescent is striped and shaded like a snake or a tiger's tail. One of the dreamscapes might sell for around £300 but a collar could be bought for as little as £32.

Karen Lawrence, although not the first jeweller to use titanium, recognized quite early on the promise that it held for a jeweller. Her early work has an Egyptian feeling, the deep blue of the metal suggesting the lapis lazuli one remembers from the treasures of Tutankhamun—a necklace of titanium and ivory beads in the Golden Smiths Hall collection belongs to this early period.

The rings, too, with a semi-precious bead threaded on gold wire, its ends wrapped around the ends of the horseshoe shaped shank, recall the manner in which a scarab was set.

More recently Karen has invented what she calls her peepshow jewels after the cardboard cut-out shoebox theatres used to make as a child. Although she herself would probably deny any such influence there is something Japanese in the wit and economy of these charming designs—her titanium swans in flight across an ivory moon will not seem strange on a Japanese iro or a Hokusai print.

Bird designs predominate, some of them disarmingly simple. Karen's work is priced so that a few pieces are always within the reach of the less well-heeled collector.

The jewels of Kevin Coates are icons from a secret and personal mythology in which magic, mathematics and fantasy are strangely interlocked. He is obsessed by the platonic solids and has just finished a PhD thesis on the sacred geometry or renaissance and baroque stringed instruments.

Coates is one of those people who does everything well. He is not only a brilliant jeweller but an accomplished watercolourist and musician—he plays the viola d'amore, lute, baroque violin and baroque mandolin, which he revived. There is a suggestion of the late renaissance in the way his exquisitely sculptured figures enact their tragic roles within a little architectural or architectural niche. His work is mostly in titanium, ivory and 18ct gold and he produces about four major pieces a year.

Plastics of one kind or another have been with us longer than one might expect. Victorian manufacturers of cheap mourning jewelry used ebonite, a rubber-based composition, as a substitute for jet. This was the tragedy of the early plastics—they were usually trying to be something else. Celluloid, casedite and bakelite were nearly always to be seen in jewelry masquerading as jade, ivory or pearls.

Perspek emerged during the Second World War as a state-of-the-art material for aircraft cockpit covers. Tough, flexible, colourful and brilliantly transparent, it had everything that celluloid had without being so inflammable. Nonetheless it took another 30 years for the new plastics to be taken seriously as a material for fine hand-made jewelry.

Roger Morris began by working in agate but found that he had more ideas than time to realize them in stone. He turned to the acrylics, laminating them like a multi-coloured, many-layered liquorice allsort, engraving them with nervously meandering patterns and often enclosing them with frames and grilles of silver.

Realizing that jewels are often playthings as well as adornments, he sometimes builds into them a little rotatable knob "something to fiddle with," as he says. His jewels look good apart from the context of the human body and he has designed structures for them to fit into so that they stand like miniature sculptures. A good example of his work would cost around £250.

Other jewellers share Morris's view that jewels have a life of their own outside their world of seem strange on a Japanese iro or a Hokusai print.

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Chess

Vital points to watch

Once a year the members of the International Association of Chess Journalists (or the AIPE as it is known under its French initials) assemble to vote who was the most successful player of the previous year. At least, they used to do this many years ago before the AIPE expanded to include members from all over the world. Nowadays the voting is chiefly done by post, but it used mostly to take place in Spain since the founder of the association, Jorge Puig, was and is Spanish.

But in the early days I can well remember going to Barcelona, Madrid and Pains de Majorca to help decide the destination of the Chess Oscar. Here I have to confess that it was I who suggested the title of the Association International de la Presse Échiquéenne, being in those far-off days much younger and more frivolous and having in mind the title of Wyndham Lewis's book, *The Apes of God*.

Anyway, serious or frivolous, the consideration of the year's performances by people who represent the world's leading chess journalists is at the very least entertaining and at the best highly instructive.

Not that Brian Reilly, the editor of the British Chess Magazine, agrees altogether with this. His point of view, which must be respectfully considered, is that of his vast experience, is that now we have Elo ratings the AIPE voting system is superfluous. All you have to do, he says, is to class the players in accordance with their Elo ratings.

In an ideal world, where people were not venal nor under pressures other than those of pure chess, he might be right. Though I must also add that for Elo ratings to be totally just, the players rated should be of the same or of similar age. For a young player will not have had time to establish himself in a high rating unless he happens to be a Fischer or a Kasparov. As for venality, alas, certain players in certain countries are notorious for selling or buying points.

Worse still, as being more insidious and less easy to control, is the sad and unpalatable fact that in those countries where the state is firmly in charge of the chess Federation, there is a strong tendency for some high state official, who may himself be a chess-player, to compel players to give points to one particular individual as being the best representative of the national party.

Since all these considerations may have an effect on Elo ratings it is a wise precaution to check and control them by consulting the advice of the world's chess journalists.

Even here though there are dangers. Let me quote from an interview that the world champion, Anatoly Karpov, gave at Skara in Sweden at the finals of the European Team Championship early last year: "The chess press is not always objective. The AIPE Chess Oscar results of 1978 made me

angry as they showed that many of the journalists who rated Karpov No. 1 didn't even rate me No. 21... and I had just retained my world title! This voting could only be due to political views."

One has to agree with this. Fortunately, there has been a return to genuine voting unswayed by political nonsense in the last two years and Karpov was awarded the Oscar both in 1979 and 1980.

On February 5 of this year Jorge Puig announced the voting results in Barcelona with, as everyone expected, Karpov first and Korchnoi second. The results of the top ten were 1. Anatoly Karpov, USSR, 1258; 2. Viktor Korchnoi, Switzerland, 1103; 3. Garry Kasparov, USSR, 890; 4. Jan Timman, Netherlands, 822; 5. Robert Hübner, West Germany, 686; 6. Anthony Miles, England, 582; 7. Lajos Portisch, Hungary, 570; 8. Bent Larsen, Denmark, 492; 9. Ulf Andersson, Sweden, 459; 10. Alexander Belyavsky, USSR, 401.

It is interesting to compare this with the previous year's list which was: 1. Karpov, 1218; 2. M. Tal, USSR, 1203; 3. Korchnoi, 971; 4. Portisch, 853; 5. Kasparov, 545; 6 & 7. Hübner and T. Petrosian, USSR, 525; 8. L. Polugaevsky, USSR, 498; 9. Andersson 390 and 10. Larsen, 376.

The world champion has consolidated his position at the head of the list and indeed his results in tournament play, add also at the Malta Olympiad have been impressive during the last year. He was in Spain at the time of the last voting for the Chess Oscar and personally received the beautiful trophy in Madrid on February 6. Karpov had been playing in a very strong tournament at Linas that included such great players as Spassky, Portisch, Ljubojevic, Larsen, Ribbi, Kavalek and Gligoric. He went through the tournament without a defeat but nevertheless had to share first place with the young United States grandmaster, Larry Christian.

White it is said to see that a marvellous player, Tal, disappeared from the top list, that Korchnoi should replace him only just, in view of his winning of the Candidates' series of matches for the second time. Very notable and equally justified is the advance of the 17-year-old Kasparov to third place: a future world champion if ever there was one.

No one could object to Timman and Hübner occupying fourth and fifth places. Both play chess that is a delight to watch. I gave Hübner were not so handicapped by his pessimistic temperament he would be even higher placed.

Tony Miles makes a welcome appearance in the list as a result of some fine tournament successes. I gave him a game of his last week but I did not do justice to his opponent, Neil Carr, since I failed to mention that he was 12 years old and a very promising prospect. He scored 11 points in the tournament.

ment and started off by beating the London under 18 champion Ian Welch.

Another new appearance in the list which is more justified is that of Alexander Belyavsky. I was much impressed by his play in the tournament at Baden-Baden last year and now he has confirmed his strength as a player by taking first place in the Soviet Championship.

Here is a game which he played in the Soviet Championship which was played at Wilmslow: White—A. Belyavsky. Black—V. Chekhov Q.P. King's Luc Defence

1. P-Q4 N-KB3 4. P-K4 P-Q4
2. P-QB4 P-KN3 5. P-Q3 P-Q3
3. N-B3 B-Q2 6. P-Q3 P-Q3

In return for the pawn sacrifice Black hopes to get play his fianchettoed Bishop all the long diagonal.

7. P-Q3 P-Q3 8. P-Q3 P-Q3
8. Q-Q2 P-Q3 9. P-Q3 P-Q3
9. P-Q3 P-Q3 10. P-Q3 P-Q3

But this way of playing all White to gain the initiative. More promising was 10. N-N3.

Better than taking off KP since after 11. N-N3 ch. N-B6 12. B-N3 B-N3 13. N-B6 B-N3 14. K-B2 R-K1 15. B-N5 B-N3 16. B-N3 B-N3

Now come some interesting tactical exchanges out of which White emerges with a position.

(Position after 18... P-QR)

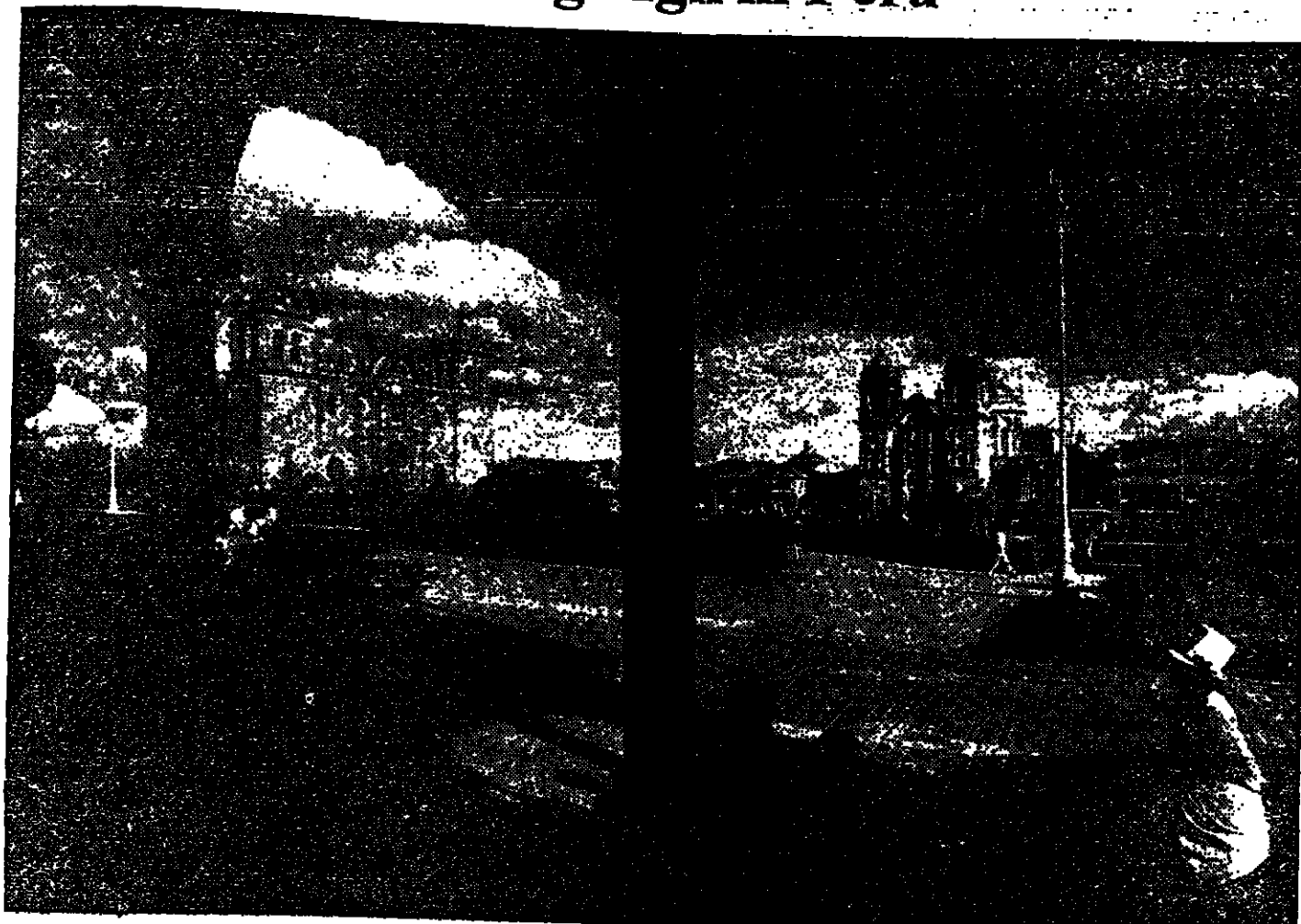
18. P-Q4 P-N 23. N-B3 B-Q
19. P-Q4 P-N 24. B-B4 B-N
20. P-Q4 P-N 25. B-B4 B-N
21. B-B4 B-N 22. B-B4 B-N

A fine move; if now 22. B-NP; 26. N-R4, B-B4: 27. K1 and White wins a pawn penetrates Black's position in his Rooks.

Another strong move and quickest way of forcing the issue is 22. P-Q4 P-N 23. P-Q4 P-N 24. P-Q4 P-N 25. P-Q4 P-N 26. P-Q4 P-N 27. P-Q4 P-N 28. P-Q4 P-N 29. P-Q4 P-N 30. P-Q4 P-N 31. P-Q4 P-N 32. P-Q4 P-N 33. P-Q4 P-N 34. P-Q4 P-N 35. P-Q4 P-N 36. P-Q4 P-N 37. P-Q4 P-N 38. P-Q4 P-N 39. P-Q4 P-N 40. P-Q4 P-N 41. P-Q4 P-N 42. P-Q4 P-N 43. P-Q4 P-N 44. P-Q4 P-N 45. P-Q4 P-N 46. P-Q4 P-N 47. P-Q4 P-N 48. P-Q4 P-N 49. P-Q4 P-N 50. P-Q4 P-N 51. P-Q4 P-N 52. P-Q4 P-N 53. P-Q4 P-N 54. P-Q4 P-N 55. P-Q4 P-N 56. P-Q4 P-N 57. P-Q4 P-N 58. P-Q4 P-N 59. P-Q4 P-N 60. P-Q4 P-N 61. P-Q4 P-N 62. P-Q4 P-N 63. P-Q4 P-N 64. P-Q4 P-N 65. P-Q4 P-N 66. P-Q4 P-N 67. P-Q4 P-N 68. P-Q4 P-N 69. P-Q4 P-N 70. P-Q4 P-N 71. P-Q4 P-N 72. P-Q4 P-N 73. P-Q4 P-N 74. P-Q4 P-N 75. P-Q4 P-N 76. P-Q4 P-N 77. P-Q4 P-N 78. P-Q4 P-N 79. P-Q4 P-N 80. P-Q4 P-N 81. P-Q4 P-N 82. P-Q4 P-N 83. P-Q4 P-N 84. P-Q4 P-N 85. P-Q4 P-N 86. P-Q4 P-N 87. P-Q4 P-N 88. P-Q4 P-N 89. P-Q4 P-N 90. P-Q4 P-N 91. P-Q4 P-N 92. P-Q4 P-N 93. P-Q4 P-N 94. P-Q4 P-N 95. P-Q4 P-N 96. P-Q4 P-N 97. P-Q4 P-N 98. P-Q4 P-N 99. P-Q4 P-N 100. P-Q4 P-N 101. P-Q4 P-N 102. P-Q4 P-N 103. P-Q4 P-N 104. P-Q4 P-N 105. P-Q4 P-N 106. P-Q4 P-N 107. P-Q4 P-N 108. P-Q4 P-N 109. P-Q4 P-N 110. P-Q4 P-N 111. P-Q4 P-N 112. P-Q4 P-N 113. P-Q4 P-N 114. P-Q4 P-N 115. P-Q4 P-N 116. P-Q4 P-N 117. P-Q4 P-N 118. P-Q4 P-N 119. P-Q4 P-N 120. P-Q4 P-N 121. P-Q4 P-N 122. P-Q4 P-N 123. P-Q4 P-N 124. P-Q4 P-N 125. P-Q4 P-N 126. P-Q4 P-N 127. P-Q4 P-N 128. P-Q4 P-N 129. P-Q4 P-N 130. P-Q4 P-N 131. P-Q4 P-N 132. P-Q4 P-N 133. P-Q4 P-N 134. P-Q4 P-N 135. P-Q4 P-N 136. P-Q4 P-N 137. P-Q4 P-N 138. P-Q4 P-N 139. P-Q4 P-N 140. P-Q4 P-N 141. P-Q4 P-N 142. P-Q4 P-N 143. P-Q4 P-N 144. P-Q4 P-N 145. P-Q4 P-N 146. P-Q4 P-N 147. P-Q4 P-N 148. P-Q4 P-N 149. P-Q4 P-N 150. P-Q4 P-N 151. P-Q4 P-N 152. P-Q4 P-N 153. P-Q4 P-N 154. P-Q4 P-N 155. P-Q4 P-N 156. P-Q4 P-N 157. P-Q4 P-N 158. P-Q4 P-N 159. P-Q4 P-N 160. P-Q4 P-N 161. P-Q4 P-N 162. P-Q4 P-N 163. P-Q4 P-N 164. P-Q4 P-N 165. P-Q4 P-N 166. P-Q4 P-N 167. P-Q4 P-N 168. P-Q4 P-N 169. P-Q4 P-N 170. P-Q4 P-N 171. P-Q4 P-N 172. P-Q4 P-N 173. P-Q4 P-N 174. P-Q4 P-N 175. P-Q4 P-N 176. P-Q4 P-N 177. P-Q4 P-N 178. P-Q4 P-N 179. P-Q4 P-N 180. P-Q4 P-N 181. P-Q4 P-N 182. P-Q4 P-N 183. P-Q4 P-N 184. P-Q4 P-N 185. P-Q4 P-N 186. P-Q4 P-N 187. P-Q4 P-N 188. P-Q4 P-N 189. P-Q4 P-N 190. P-Q4 P-N 191. P-Q4 P-N 192. P-Q4 P-N 193. P-Q4 P-N 194. P-Q4 P-N 195. P-Q4 P-N 196. P-Q4 P-N 197. P-Q4 P-N 198. P-Q4 P-N 199. P-Q4 P-N 200. P-Q4 P-N 201. P-Q4 P-N 202. P-Q4 P-N 203. P-Q4 P-N 204. P-Q4 P-N 205. P-Q4 P-N 206. P-Q4 P-N 207. P-Q4 P-N 208. P-Q4 P-N 209. P-Q4 P-N 210. P-Q4 P-N 211. P-Q4 P-N 212. P-Q4 P-N 213. P-Q4 P-N 214. P-Q4 P-N 215. P-Q4 P-N 216. P-Q4 P-N 217. P-Q4 P-N 218. P-Q4 P-N 219. P-Q4 P-N 220. P-Q4 P-N 221. P-Q4 P-N 222. P-Q4 P-N 223. P-Q4 P-N 224. P-Q4 P-N 225. P-Q4 P-N 226. P-Q4 P-N 227. P-Q4 P-N 228. P-Q4 P-N 229. P-Q4 P-N 230. P-Q4 P-N 231. P-Q4 P-N 232. P-Q4 P-N 233. P-Q4 P-N 234. P-Q4 P-N 235. P-Q4 P-N 236. P-Q4 P-N 237. P-Q4 P-N 238. P-Q4 P-N 239. P-Q4 P-N 240. P-Q4 P-N 241. P-Q4 P-N 242. P-Q4 P-N 243. P-Q4 P-N 244. P-Q4 P-N 245. P-Q4 P-N 246. P-Q4 P-N 247. P-Q4 P-N 248. P-Q4 P-N 249. P-Q4 P-N 250. P-Q4 P-N 251. P-Q4 P-N 252. P-Q4 P-N 253. P-Q4 P-N 254. P-Q4 P-N 255. P-Q4 P-N 256. P-Q4 P-N 257. P-Q4 P-N 258. P-Q4 P-N 259. P-Q4 P-N 260. P-Q4 P-N 261. P-Q4 P-N 262. P-Q4 P-N 263. P-Q4 P-N 264. P-Q4 P-N 265. P-Q4 P-N 266. P-Q4 P-N 267. P-Q4 P-N 268. P-Q4 P-N 269. P-Q4 P-N 270. P-Q4 P-N 271. P-Q4 P-N 272. P-Q4 P-N 273. P-Q4 P-N 274. P-Q4 P-N 275. P-Q4 P-N 276. P-Q4 P-N 277. P-Q4 P-N 278. P-Q4 P-N 279. P-Q4 P-N 280. P-Q4 P-N 281. P-Q4 P-N 282. P-Q4 P-N 283. P-Q4 P-N 284. P-Q4 P-N 285. P-Q4 P-N 286. P-Q4 P-N 287. P-Q4 P-N 288. P-Q4 P-N 289. P-Q4 P-N 290. P-Q4 P-N 291. P-Q4 P-N 292. P-Q4 P-N 293. P-Q4 P-N 294. P-Q4 P-N 295. P-Q4 P-N 296. P-Q4 P-N 297. P-Q4 P-N 298. P-Q4 P-N 299. P-Q4 P-N 300. P-Q4 P-N 301. P-Q4 P-N 302. P-Q4 P-N 303. P-Q4 P-N 304. P-Q4 P-N 305. P-Q4 P-N 306. 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Travel

Riding high in Peru



The main square in Cuzco.

Those who believe it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive may wish to consider Peru for their next holiday. For the best chance of adventure—and a misadventure—they should choose package tours, which are rapidly opening up this most accessible and hospitable of South American countries, and go it alone.

That was how I came to make a 300-mile cross-country trip from Arequipa in the south to Puno on Lake Titicaca by taxi. Flights between the two towns, both situated several thousand feet above sea level, had been suspended for two days because of bad weather.

The driver explained that the journey would take seven hours—more if it rained. How it rained. And it did take longer, partly because the track (only for short distances could it be called a road) ran through flooded rivers and equally because the taxi had no windshield wipers. Trackside crosses are a frequent reminder that many vehicles do not complete the journey but tumble hundreds of feet off the steep, zig-zagging road.

At the half-way point, 14,000ft up and miles from nowhere, we stopped for refreshments. Peruvians have just the thing for weary and white-knuckled travellers—coca tea, a mild narcotic made from leaves of the same plant which is cooked locally to produce cocaine. It is a cure for soroche, or mountain sickness, and is available in coca tea bags in the south. In the north, strangely, it is frowned upon, and in the Lima Sheraton it is virtually a crime to ask for it.

The driver felt much better after his tea—until he discovered that he had lost his keys. Half an hour of searching failed to produce them and after much beneath-the-bonnet tinkering that we were able to resume our journey.

It cost about £30, but can be done cheaper, by collective taxi, or collectively. The fare also entitles you to participate in an attempt on the Peruvian all-comers' taxi-cramming record. It is not recommended. By comparison, the 10-hour train journey from Puno to Cuzco is tame. For about £6 you can buy a ticket for the first-class buffet. It is comfort-

able, handy for the oxygen masks carried for those who have difficulty breathing at the high altitudes encountered and an excellent vantage point for viewing the railway version of tax-cutting in the next compartment.

You see a lot more of the countryside than you would do by air, and have plenty of opportunity to buy cheap souvenirs. The train stops at more than 20 stations, where the hard-pressed buffet car attendant is fully occupied repelling would-be boarders bearing alpaca rugs, jumpers, silver jewelry, loaves of bread and hunks of roast lamb.

Lack of demand and an accident has led to the withdrawal of helicopter flights from Cuzco to Machupicchu, the fabled "lost city of the Incas" and probably South America's most famous tourist attraction, but it was always far cheaper and more interesting to take the train. It leaves around 7 am, climbing out of Cuzco in a series of "switchbacks", forwards and then backwards through the poor suburbs of the town, steadily gaining height in switchback-fashion. Occasionally it breaks down, affording local youngsters an opportunity to beg from the bemused gringos.

The railway follows the Urubamba river, sweeping through semi-jungle flanked by high cliffs and peaks. The final assault on Machupicchu is by bus, almost straight up in a series of 13 hairpin bends. Don't look down, and try to ignore the little boy who races the bus down, encountering it on each straight and issuing a

blood-curdling scream, imitating the sound made by a busload of tourists falling off the side of a Peruvian mountain. At the bottom, he is rewarded with tips or chips round the ear.

Air travel can also be unpredictable, largely because of the weather, which can play havoc with schedules, but also because there appear to be too few planes to fulfil the number of flights required. Flights from Cuzco to Lima are often suspended for more than 24 hours during the wet season.

Aeropero and Faucett frequently operate the same routes, for the same fare, often within hours of each other. This arrangement at times offers the sort of flexibility that Feydeau would have appreciated. For four memorable hours in Iquitos, the jungle town on the Amazon, I and hundreds of others trying to return to the capital swapped, re-swapped, and re-swapped again between Aeropero and Faucett flights, according to the latest betting on which would leave least late. This is made more interesting by the airlines' refusal to volunteer information.

Both airlines have made strenuous attempts, including the purchase of new planes, to improve reliability in recent months.

The golden rule of air travel, which like most things in Peru is relatively cheap for Britons, is get there early. Because of bad weather at airports many thousands of feet up in the Andes, flights are

almost as likely to leave early as late.

Peru has much to offer, be it far-flung, it has mountains where small-scale resorts are being developed, exploration at Iquitos Amazon, exploration holidays are popular, and even desert. Here, the principal attraction is the Nazca lines, best seen from the air, variously explained in terms of pre-Inca astronomical calendars, landing sites for ancient spacecrafts, and religious observance.

Machupicchu is a magical place—almost as heart-stoppingly beautiful and incongruous-to-the-first-time-visitor as it must have been to Hiram Bingham, the American who stumbled upon it in 1911. Cuzco and Arequipa still retain some exquisite architecture. That of Lima seems to have been submerged under the weight of traffic, modern city-centre development and the sprawl of shanty towns, but it still boasts many fine museums.

By European standards hotels are cheap and comfortable, though not especially plentiful outside Lima, except in developed tourist centres like Cuzco. A good three-course meal with Chilean or local wine can still be had for less than £10. Lima, of course, is more expensive, and because of Peru's economic miracle the hotels quickly fill up with foreign businessmen.

Much is being done in Peru to encourage tourism, by encouraging hotel building, opening up new places of interest and improving communications. In the past 10 years tourist traffic has increased by 360 per cent and several tour companies now offer package trips. Of the local groups arranging tours and smoothing the traveller's way, Lima Tours is among the best. British Caledonian has regular flights to Lima, and Aeropero and Faucett are developing international links.

Gringo tourists are already a target of pickpockets and bag-slashers, especially in Cuzco and Puno. By and large, though, Peru remains relatively unspoiled and her tourist traffic unorganized. And for the hopeful traveller that remains one of her attractions.

John Huxley

Travel extra

A touch of à la carte

In spite of the recession, the up-market holiday companies are still optimistic. They continue to tempt with pictures of exclusive and expensive resorts which most people can only wonder about.

Mark Allan Travel specializes in holidays in the United States, particularly California. Its 1980-81 portfolio—nothing so common as a brochure—offers the smartest hotels with splendid reputations. Each

holiday is tailor-made to suit individual needs. Flights are arranged at the Super Apex rate. First-class travel is also offered. Information from Mark Allan Travel, 130 Mount Street, Berkeley Square, London, W1Y 5HH. Tel. 01-629 1791.

Serenissima Travel is now in its ninth year and has expanded its programme to include East Africa. Its services include a range of specialized holidays to destinations all over the world, including tours for the Folio Society and the Royal Geographical Society. Prices, not cheap, follow from the cultural interest and attention to detail which are a speciality of this company. Details and brochures from Serenissima Travel, 140 Sloane Street, London, SW1X 9AY. Tel. 01-730 7281.

Also with culture in mind, Heritage Travel, an associate company of Supertravel, offers holidays to destinations in Europe, New York and Hong Kong, and its à la carte programme provides week-long holidays in six of the Continent's most historic cities, guided by art history experts. Prices for these programmes start at £265 (to Florence) and there are specific departure dates. For these programmes and details of other destinations, Heritage Travel are at 22 Hans Place, London SW1X 0EP. Tel. 01-584 5201.

Swans also offer art treasure tours, in Britain, on the Continent and in Iceland. They are a large company and there-



Tea break for a Turkish guard on the Orient Express.

fore able to provide a wide choice of destinations (28 tours in all). Information from Swan Hellenic, 237-238 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0AL; tel. 01-636 8070.

To prove that nostalgia is exactly what it used to be, Barbican Holidays have arranged a return of the Orient Express. There is to be one journey, and the company says that bookings are going very well. The train leaves Istanbul in October, following the old route. Passengers will leave the train at Lucerne and travel to London on a luxury Rhine steamer and ship, with a final night at the Churchill Hotel. If this year's journey proves successful, it will be repeated in 1982. Barbican Holidays are at Church Road,

Harriesham, Maidstone, Kent; tel. 0622-859209.

On a more modest level, Ski Snowball have found year-round employment for the chaperone girls who work in their ski resorts in winter. They have acquired a fleet of old Bentleys and hire them out, complete with chauffeurs (and picnic, if required) for white nights or for transfer to airports and theatres. The service is expensive, but the quality of service and the style of travel is excellent. The cost for a day's hire, with a picnic lunch and wine (an ideal way to visit Ascor or Henley) is £100 plus VAT. Details can be obtained from The Bentley Girls, 280, Fulham Road, London, SW10; tel. 01-352 1574.

John Carter

PARLIAMENT, March 13, 1981

Minister voices fear of a Marxist GLC

House of Commons. The Government's deliberate failure to recognize and accept London's problems and its politically motivated decision to deprive the city of essential resources had brought the capital to a crisis, Mr Albert Stallard (Camden, St Pancras North, Lab) said.

He moved a motion criticizing the effect of Government policies on London, particularly over the Rate Support Grant and said that the Government's decision to deprive London of between £300 and £400m would, if not checked, cause irreversible damage to the capital's industrial and commercial base.

There had been massive increases in council housing rents, water rates and heating charges. Some tenants estimated that their weekly outgoings would be increased by £12-£14 a week. This kind of massive increase was a recipe for major unrest in the capital, the new socialist.

Because of the problem of homelessness, particularly among the young, more and more people were sleeping rough. The Chancellor had said that all must share in sacrifices if the economy was to be put right. But can we (he asked) in all humanity say to the thousands of London's single homeless, sleeping on the streets, that they must endure these degrading conditions for God knows how long?

There had been a dramatic increase in unemployment in London. The figure stood at 126,000 when the Government came into office and had risen to 218,000 and was still on the increase.

Mr John Hunt (Bromley, Ravensbourne, Con) said that about 100,000 people were now living in council houses in London. He said that the Government had failed to pay off a massive debt of £12 billion to the Labour administration. Nearly 20,000 Londoners had been asked to buy their own homes and 12,000 had been refused.

Mr Bryan Magee (Waltham Forest, Leyton, Lab) said he was appalled by the demand for public housing and the introduction of stocks as forms of punishment in this country.

About a fifth of his constituents were immigrants and they faced special problems. The immigration rules were applied with a harshness which was often inhumane.

Mr David Mellor (Wandsworth, Con) challenged the Opposition to deny that policies which had sold London's interests down the river were those of the last Labour Government.

Action would have to be taken to restrict the amounts that Labour councils like Lambeth could call upon local businesses to pay in rates.

Mr John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich, East, Con Dem) said that his party's inner London had many growing social problems which could be solved only by above average public spending. The Government's politically motivated, callous attack on inner London was a recipe for social injustice and worsening urban decay.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing, North, Con) said he accepted that some features in the new block grant agreements brought central government perhaps too close to democratic local decision making.

But councillors of both parties had realized that economies could be made. The Tories had inherited from Labour the blank cheque.

This was the result of Labour awards to the public sector to buy themselves out of the winter of discontent.

Mr Edward Graham, an Opposition spokesman on the environment (Enfield, Edmonton, Lab) said that at the heart of a better life for London there must be better housing, and nowhere did the Government deserve greater condemnation. Their record for London and the nation, was a scandal and a disgrace.

He feared there would be continuing efforts to lower mammoth levels of council expenditure needed for the London fire service. That must be resisted before London experienced a terrible tragedy.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, Under Secretary of State, Environment (Camden, Hampstead, Con) said people who were now running the Labour Party would not be fit to clean the boots of people like Herbert Morrison. London Labour leaders like him would not have allowed some of the

people currently in the London Labour Party to pay contributions because they were only in it to break it up. He was uneasy if I thought (he said) there was going to be a Labour council after May 7. What scares me is not that it will not be a Labour council, but a Marxist council.

He was tired of the alarmist statements about fire cover for London. The approval for a reduction in the number of fire appliances in the London Fire Brigade was only given after the proposals had been fully examined by HM Inspectors of the fire service.

The 164 pages of the Labour GLC manifesto included recipes for bureaucracy, needless extravagance, needless waste, the old British disease of putting money into revenue rather than capital investment.

To support such a programme would lead to at least a 50 per cent increase in the GLC precept, an extra £35 a year for the average domestic ratepayer.

The Government was determined to get the country's economy back on to a sound footing and local government could not be isolated from that. Rates were now 12 per cent of direct business costs. High rates threatened recovery, employment and prosperity.

There is why the Government had made a tough rate support grant settlement. Most local councils had recognized the need to economize. But there were some Labour-controlled authorities like Camden, Lambeth and Hackney, who had deliberately refused to make economies and made a virtue of wastefully spending their ratepayers' money.

The supplementary rates imposed by Lambeth and Camden councils represented gross incompetence.

The policies advocated by the London Labour Party would increase the pressure on business to move away from the centre and contribute to the further decline in the capital's economy.

The debate was adjourned. House adjourned 3 pm.

Attempted coup in Spain condemned

European Parliament Strasbourg

The Parliament agreed to a motion tabled by the Socialist Democratic, Communist and Labour groups condemning the recent attempted coup in Spain.

The motion also affirmed that a pluralist system of parliamentary democracy for human rights was a precondition of the accession of any country to and its membership of the EEC.

The Marquess of Douro (Surrey, Con) said that the present British opinion of the attempted coup in Spain was a prelude to a debate on the European Convention on Human Rights and the principles of democracy enshrined in Community law.

To this, the European Democratic group proposed an amendment, which was carried, noting that the implementation of the Convention before implementation and would be reconsidered when the

Study of Nationality Bill by EEC Commission

The European Commission was studying the United Kingdom Government's Nationality Bill and had asked the British Government to provide information on the bill.

She said that under the bill, staff of the Community could have children born in Luxembourg or Belgium who would not automatically have citizenship.

The motion was carried. A motion from the Legal Affairs Committee was passed, calling on the Commission to draft a directive creating a minimum Community standard for financial awards from public funds to victims of violence, with a minimum compensation level, the scheme to operate in all countries where such victims were present.

Mr Karl-Heinz Narjes, Commissioner for Agriculture, said that extension of the Community, the Commission would see what it could do to improve grading.

Report sought on aid to apple growers

A full report on measures of aid given to apple producers throughout the community was called for by Mr David Curry (Essex, north-east, Con).

Agriculture Committee motion on disturbance of the Community apple market, which was agreed to.

The motion welcomed British steps to improve grading, packaging, advertising and marketing of English apples.

It also welcomed the agreement of French producers to limit shipments of apples to the UK.

Mr Curry said that the motion was not intended to prolong warfare between the French and British but as a contribution to peace-making in the Community.

Mr Paul Dalsager, Commissioner for Agriculture, said that extension of the Community, the Commission would see what it could do to improve grading.

Law Report March 13 1981

Woman with children discriminated against

Huxley v Mustoe

Before Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson, Miss J. Colleson and Mr T. H. Goff

It is unlawful for an employer to have a policy against employing women with children. The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by Mrs Ursula Huxley, aged 34, former waitress, against a policy of her employer, Mr Edward Mustoe, of refusing to employ women with children.

Mrs Huxley, who had been employed by Mr Mustoe for 10 years, was dismissed on the grounds of redundancy. She claimed that her dismissal was discriminatory on the grounds of sex and that her employer was in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

Section 3(1)(b) provides that a person discriminates against a woman if he treats her less favourably than he treats or would treat a man. It applies to that person a requirement or condition which he applies to all persons equally, whether or not they are married or unmarried, but—(i) which is such that the proportion of married persons who can comply with it is significantly smaller than the proportion of unmarried persons of the same sex who can comply with it, and (ii) which he cannot show to be justified irrespective of the marital status of the person to whom it is applied, and (iii) which is to that person's detriment because he cannot comply with it.

Miss Caroline Alton for Mrs Huxley, Mr Mustoe in person. Mr JUSTICE BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the industrial tribunal found that the employer was in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. He found that the employer was in breach of the Act in relation to the dismissal of Mrs Huxley.

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On August 28, 1979, she saw in the window of Edward's Bistro an advertisement for waitresses. She saw the manager next day and applied for the job. He asked her to attend at his office. He was running a small restaurant where, on occasion, if one waitress were absent, the manager would be missing. Therefore his policy of not employing women with children was justifiable as being necessary for the conduct of his business.

The industrial tribunal's decision on that point was not correct for two reasons. Firstly, it had applied the wrong standards. In considering Mrs Huxley's claim based on direct discrimination under section 3(1)(a) of the Act, the tribunal found that the policy was against employing women of either sex who had children.

When they turned to consider section 3(1)(b) of the Act, the tribunal found that the policy was against employing women of either sex who had children. There was no evidence that Mrs Huxley was dismissed on the grounds of her sex.

The tribunal, however, appeared to have directed the mind to whether a condition discriminating against women with children was necessary, and all the evidence before them was directed to the unreliability of women with small children. There was no evidence that Mrs Huxley was dismissed on the grounds of her sex.

Secondly, the employer had to show that the condition was necessary and not merely convenient. The tribunal considered that it was testing the condition by the yardstick of necessity but in fact it did not do so. The tribunal found that the condition was necessary and not merely convenient.

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no prejudice against women or children. His justification for his policy was that, in his experience, women with small and dependent children were unreliable in their attendance at work. He was running a small restaurant where, on occasion, if one waitress were absent, the manager would be missing. Therefore his policy of not employing women with children was justifiable as being necessary for the conduct of his business.

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order to achieve reliability to exclude all women with children. There were other means whereby the reliability of any applicant could be tested. Mr Mustoe could have taken up Mrs Huxley's references; or he could have asked her to provide references from other employers. He was looking after her children, while she was at work. Although there might be exceptions, it was not a condition which excluded all members of a class from employment that could not be justified on the grounds that some members of that class were undesirable employees.

Industrial tribunals should look with care at the unsupported evidence of a respondent that particular class of person lacked desirable features that others possessed, especially when such evidence led to discriminatory practices. It was said for Mrs Huxley that statistics showed that 45 per cent of women with three or more children went out to work. If correct, that suggested that women with children (as a class) were more reliable than employees as Mr Mustoe considered.

The court was not deciding whether or not it was desirable for women with young children to go out to work. Strong views were held about that, but Parliament had decided that it was for each mother to decide whether or not she went out to work and employers must accept the choice of individual employees as Mr Mustoe considered.

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Fred Emery

Has the lady gone too far this time?

Tories. Cabinet ministers now, as well as outsiders have begun to talk about the unlikelihood of it, that their only hope for preventing further economic disaster, and electoral defeat, may be the removal of Mrs Thatcher.

It sounds preposterous, of course. The Prime Minister seems near, some times levitated a few feet above, the peak of her predominance, laying into the doubters and critics with a vehemence that she relishes.

For the few moments following the annual Budget visitation a prime minister enjoys God-like power, far in excess of that dreamed of by a United States president. Where he has to petition Congress, and might, if he is lucky, see some response before the year is out, she snuffs her fingers and paces down, howls rise as she makes clear who is mistress here. Heads bow, but the power can be abused.

We do still have Cabinet government, and signs are emerging in the Budget that Mrs Thatcher has gone too far in thrusting down ministers' throats a collective responsibility they are supposed to share, and then jeering at them for having no guts.

Resentment is festering. There can be a variety of sequels. She could dismiss the dissenters and provoke the crisis. Some ministers, later rather than now, might resign and, if heavy enough, precipitate her demise. They could all fume on together until a deepening economic crisis moves her to dump her Chancellor to save herself, and so bend to policy changes.

Until now conventional wisdom has been that Mrs Thatcher is politician enough to steer the latter course. Certainly most Tories and most commentators would agree with Mr John Biffen that they had not come into politics to be kamikaze pilots. But the way the Budget was handled at the top is what has raised the doubts.

The defiance with which Mrs Thatcher has insisted on having her way, in exacting revenge on those ministers who defeated her in the public expenditure battle last November, has precipitated a belief among those that she is not political in the British sense of doing what is possible. Her Cabinet critics are tending now to believe that she is experimenting with the impossible.

Now, leaving aside the prospect

that deposing Mrs Thatcher would be an act of desperation even more likely to lose the Conservatives the election, let us look at what has provoked the outrage, not to say a certain hysteria.

It is not, as she has been shouting, that her critics will not agree to pay the public expenditure bill in higher taxes. Of course, there is the distraction of the row over petrol prices, but many Tories would accept hitting the consumer if they were confident that the Government were, as purportedly, truly attending to a business recovery. They are not.

More than that, they know that Mrs Thatcher and the Chancellor took very little notice of those who wanted an investment-led recovery. The Budget has something, not to be sniffed at, for small business. But suggestions of bigger-scale borrowing are rejected as immoral as well as inflationary.

Advice certainly was given. The emerging talk of Cabinet ministers wanting more say in budget-making—likely to be scorned by the Prime Minister—must not conceal the fact that most ministers manage to have their say with the Chancellor, though not in full Cabinet.

What has shaken several of them is the way all their advice was disregarded. Instead of the "adjustments" to tactics and timing that Mr Francis Pym had led some to expect, not to speak of hints of new pragmatism from Mr Biffen. The medium term financial strategy is dead," he was once reported saying, and the homely advice from Lord Thorneycroft about no economic theory working, the Thatcher faction insists not only that their way is the best way but is the only way.

The Chancellor keeps his spirits up by saying that this is no time to lose nerve. This was echoed in the plain by the new Chief Treasury Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, that people's pessimism is at its greatest just when it is becoming clear that things are changing.

But it is none too clear whether ministers themselves are sure what other choices they should be offering. They abhor the word "reflation," yet the Budget adds up to two per cent more on the retail price index. Now they hate the word "deflation," Mrs Thatcher, Mr Brittan, Mr Nigel Lawson (who saw the need to re-issue his Commons speech the

following day as a statement) insist that the Budget is neither deflationary nor contractionary, much though the ignorant point to the billions of pounds being "taken out of demand."

Does Mrs Thatcher understand? Carried away on Wednesday, she said: "It is also true that public spending is up by six billion more than a year ago." That is not what the Treasury figures show, however you measure it. In the new hard cash terms it is up from £91,500m to £94,000m, an amount not even equal to that accounted for by ministers as the pressure from recession.

Spending, or more spending cuts. Here is the crux of the coming battle. The Chancellor believes that shifting the books to real cash terms, away from the "volume" terms of constant prices, is the most significant change he has introduced.

It is supposedly must produce cost reductions or cuts, previously unrealizable. Others like Mr Reg Prentice

urge the Government to cut old age pensions, something the Cabinet "wets" prevented Mrs Thatcher, the Chancellor, and Mr Patrick Jenkin from doing last year.

The critics, and they range from Cabinet "wets" to Tory "dries" such as Mr Edward du Cann, Mr Peter Tapsell, the CBI, and many more, want to break the Government's negative obsession with cuts. They want to shake the Government out of the mechanical acceptance of shelling-out billions on the unemployed—costing in benefits and lost revenue, £15,000m next year.

They want the Government to get on with investment, whether with public funds, private or a mixture of the two. Threaten the City with direction, if that is needed to hold down interest rates. Be bold and imaginative; expand rather than restrict while there is still time. That is their message.

The pity is that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey seem obsessed with what happened to Mr Heath's attempts to expand in 1972; it led to inflation and, in the end, to deposition. If history repeats itself, it is never quite the same way.

Letter from Singapore

A nudge that became a push

Give to a gracious message
An host of tongues, in
Themselves when they be

It was not that the tide was particularly unpleasant nor the words ungracious more like a word to a friar about an irritating habit.

The British High Commission in Singapore has good reason to wish that that quotation came to mind late last year, long before a subtle piece of personal diplomacy suddenly rebounded on her majesty's representatives.

The background to the story goes back over a period many months in which government ministers never seem have lost an opportunity to criticize Britain and hold British society as an example of how not to do things.

Despite the close connexions and the fact that many local Singaporeans of the press generation were educated in Britain, the comments usually illustrated either a surprising ignorance of the reasons much of what happens in Britain or an unwillingness to do things.

Because of the good relations with and unequalled success, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, and other ministers enjoyed by British diplomats the idea that intimations of British unhappiness might pass on to the British High Commission, a it was pointed out that the problem was long-term. Becoming more and more Singaporeans are studying for higher degrees in countries other than Britain there are progressively fewer of them who have had experience of living in Britain a therefore, the constant critic of the country was likely to erode its image permanently.

Foreign correspondents aware of the High Commission approach, waiting results, they were not long in coming. In his main general election speech last December, Mr. not noticeably hesitated before choosing Italy and Sri Lanka as his oratorical victims.

The balance was apparently tipped by an action speech by Mr. Devan Nair, president of the National Trades Union Council, a publicly pompous man who privately has a spot for Britain despite years of jail, courtesy of the Government.

accused the Singapore opposition parties of trying to "bring the country into a 'li Britain' in which trade unions were wild, social wreckers, he went on: "The only chance for Britain to become a great power would be if people like Lee Kuan Yew, Ganesan, and Rajaratnam (second deputy prime minister) were to be re-elected in Britain in their own lives."

Consequently, a human private note was dispatched to the High Commission, in the name of the Secretary of the ruling People's Action Party, late last year.

Recently, however, 10 journalists heard of the uncivil note and called the High Commission for confirmation and amplification of the story. By the time the story was printed, a private note had been transformed into a protest at the journalists, perhaps unfair for attribution, were quite spokesmen for the High Commission. Suddenly, a private note had become a public note.

Nothing could have been further from the intentions of the High Commission and no longer more counter-productive. The journalists' collective note, however, brought the High Commission's image with more chaotic members of the British community.

One headline obviously expressed their views: "British Embassy in Singapore 'in a state of failure'." High Commission staff, not surprisingly, saw their countrymen's gratitude a mixed blessing.

For a country which need even more than Britain, in a post and which has such strong British connexions, it is useful for the elite to understand the industrial relation failures as an example of what not to do. But the republic's multi-racial composition makes it more complex than that: the Chinese-educated Asian cultures must not be seen to be neglected. The trick to combine the use of western thinking without importation the shortcomings of western society while promoting the introduction of Japanese decision-making.

This leads, to some rather black-and-white assessments of the relative merits of European and Asian societies. Much of the time Singaporeans are given the impression that the West is the root of most evils and all virtue springs from the East.

None the less it is hard for the outsider to judge how much of what the leadership says is purely for internal consumption and whether the speaker really believes it or not and how much is intended to strike at the overseas target.

The High Commission had reason to hope that there might now be a lull in the castigations of Britain. Then, during the celebrations of Chinese New Year, there were more harsh home truths.

John Hennessy

David Watts

Why Sir Hugh wants to keep Sir Charles out of the Savoy



that of other hotel operators, like the Salmons who ran the Lyons hotels empire, and has taken Britain over. The Savoy, he feels, "is a very fine hotel, but it is looking a little bit weary at the edges. It is time it was given a new lease of life."

He has been looking at the Savoy group for six or seven years, and has met Sir Hugh many times. "He has always been very polite and courteous, but has always said when the subject of the Savoy has been raised that they were just not interested. He didn't even ask me what my price was," said Sir Charles.

"So while our meetings have been very nice occasions and Sir Hugh has been very complimentary, in the end he has asked me to leave him alone."

The same fate, it appears, was meted out to Sir Maxwell Joseph whose Grand Metropolitan group showed interest in the Savoy some years ago. "Max was simply told to keep off the grass," said Sir Charles, "so he sold his shares."

"This time, though, we are going right through, and I think we should win if the deal is put fairly and squarely to shareholders."

Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

A shift in strength faces the Vatican

Is the world's largest religious community helping humanity as much as it might? Peter Nichols. The Times correspondent in Rome, whose book *The Pope's Divisions: The Roman Catholic Church Today*, is published on Monday, asks whether Pope John Paul's apocalyptic view of the future is a valid one.

It is probably not to a Pole that one would look for an apocalyptic view of the human condition. Their speciality is a sort of romantic power for survival, against all odds, rather than cold analysis leading to despair or a total abandoning of some sort of hope for the future, which is one reason why Pope John Paul II is a surprise.

Before he went to Hiroshima and Nagasaki last month he had already made a whole series of statements about the danger of a great catastrophe facing the human race. Even before he was elected Pope he was talking about this use as "the highest level of tension between the Word and the anti-Word in the whole of human history". Since his election he has become more dramatic in his views about the dangers which the third millennium will bring.

Is he right, or is he wrong? And, if he is right, is the world's largest religious community which he leads in so masterful a way doing all it could to help humanity avoid impending disaster?

No one can say with certainty that the danger is around the corner, but it would be far more foolish to suppose that the dangers are not fearfully real. The immediately obvious dangers of over-population and exhaustion of resources are accompanied by psychological strains: the mere fact that the year 2000 is near is emotionally unsettling for many Christians, even if the birth of Jesus is no longer accepted everywhere as having taken place in the first year of the Christian era and is sometimes dated several years later.

This is not a particularly rational age, however, as the form taken by a revival of interest in religion clearly shows. The revival, in so far as there is one in Europe, the traditional base of Christianity, and for Roman Catholicism especially, is personal, often eccentric. The revival of interest in pilgrimages, the success of the Charismatic movement, the attraction of oriental prac-



Peter Nichols has an audience with Pope John Paul II.

tics, some sections of ecological opinion, all point this way.

What is far from clear is whether these elements of revival will prove to be useful in fending off mankind's difficulties or add a new one. As far as Catholicism is concerned, these developments would hardly have been foreseeable as little as a decade ago.

When the Second Vatican Council closed in 1965 the Catholic Church seemed set on a more rational and more flexible course. Great attention was paid to the sensibilities of other Christians; and so there was what Andrew Greeley called "the broken Mary myth" and there was the development of the theory of the responsibility of all the bishops in the Church's government which aimed at reducing the impression made of papal power by placing it inside a broader framework.

The effect of the Council's work is now seen to have been elusory, and a reaction which brings back the popular aspects of religion as well as a very strong papacy is now clearly dominant.

There are the changes more clearly seen in the traditionally European base of Roman Catholicism. What is happening elsewhere is far more fundamental because the strength of the Roman Church is now shifting to the Third World. The Catholics of Europe and North America still held a nominal lead in 1950 with a total of 267 million to 251 million in the Third World. Today, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania together are ahead, and it is estimated that by the year 2000 about 70 per cent of baptised Catholics will be in the Third World.

This shift does not mean a return to the rural background from which Christianity originally emerged. Along with the huge increase in population in the areas becoming increasingly Catholic there is a massive move to the cities. In 1950 there were only six cities in the whole world with populations of five

million or more, and their combined population was only 44 million. By 1980 this had risen to 26 cities with a total of 252 million inhabitants. By the year 2000 the indications are that the number of cities will have risen to about 60 and nearly 650 million people will live in them.

Three decades ago only Shanghai in the less developed countries had five million inhabitants or more. By the year 2000 there will be 45, most of them in Asia.

There should be little surprise that Catholicism in much of the Third World has become identified with movements of social justice. El Salvador in terms of numbers is small but the part the Catholic Church plays there in helping decide that unhappy republic's future will probably be crucial in setting its attitude towards social justice and political involvement.

If one had to choose a European country as likely to have an exemplary role in the future the logical choice would be another small country: Holland. It is there that the most striking efforts were made to devise a modern and advanced form of Catholicism which would reflect the needs of a sophisticated western society.

Population, social justice, the massive shift to the cities, the millennial mentality, the fear that nuclear war might be inevitable sooner or later: these are all questions on which non-Catholics as well as Catholics might well feel that Rome should be devising a clear outlook and perception.

Stalin is credited with having deliberately asked how many divisions the Pope had at his disposal. There is a much better reason now for asking the same question, not least because the Catholic Church has its most spectacular Pope of modern times in terms of the attention he arouses.

Peter Nichols
Published by Faber and Faber, £10.

quite extraordinarily good after dinner speaker," and also Clerk of the Royal Kitchens and catering adviser to the Royal household, posts he still holds.

Quite clearly, then, he is a very different man to his predecessor in the battle for control of the Savoy, Sir Charles Forte, who in one sense at least—that he started work at

14 and did not go to Eton and Oxford—would seem to fit Sir Hugh's description of a very good chef.

Sir Charles, also 72, would not be worried by that, nor is he concerned at patting remarks about his company's motorway restaurants. He has fought that battle before. What does worry him is "that five

or six people who represent a very small part of the shareholding of a public company can get together and simply say they don't like a bid which is very fair—indeed very generous."

Sir Charles has become the greatest British hotelier, partly because he has proved his company to be more efficient than

Hansard yesterday passed a notable milestone. The last word of Volume 1,000 of the Official Report of the House of Commons was recorded. When question time begins on Monday a shorthand writer will take down the opening words of Volume 1 of the sixth series.

Those 1,000 volumes began in 1909 when the official record, launched by William Cobbett in 1807, was taken over by the House of Commons.

Cobbett went to prison for debt and his printer bailed him out; exacting the ownership of the Report as his price. It did not flourish but survived through the nineteenth century and finally passed under the Commons' own wing after Reuters and Exchange Telegraph had both tried to make a go of it. Even today, when the Government want to farm out the printing of the Report to the private sector, the Commons would be unlikely to relinquish control.

The 1,000 pale blue volumes which line so many shelves in the Commons, and in a number of libraries throughout the world, contain about 500 million words. Some such as Churchill's tribute to The Few have become a part of our history.

Melanie Faldo is the woman behind the man behind Britain's most determined attack on the American golf circuit for nearly a decade. Her husband, Nicholas, is the one who hits the ball—so successfully now that he is a card-carrying member of the American fraternity—but he could never have done it without her constructive support.

"We work as a team," he claims. "Otherwise, I could never have got as far as I have."

Faldo, however, describes what he has done as "a mere pinprick," but those who know golf, and the difficulties of making it in America see it as a substantial breakthrough.

Melanie Faldo is now councillor, philosopher, controller of the exchequer and personal manager to her husband, Nicholas Faldo maintains that he is a better golfer since their marriage the summer before last. The record gives the same message.

Melanie began in 1978 when she should talk to Nicholas for a feature she was doing in a new magazine on jogging. She had to visit him at Welwyn Garden City two or three times, with purely professional intent, when "suddenly, something clicked." They were married in June, 1979, a year of decline for his golf—almost certainly, she thinks, because of the domestic upheaval of setting up home.

1,000 up for Hansard

Assent in the House of Lords. Those words were recorded by Hansard but not printed.



These rare exceptions aside, the Official Report, in the words of the motion which governs its operation, is "Not strictly verbatim, is substantially a verbatim report, with repetitions and redundancies omitted and with obvious mistakes corrected, which on the other hand, leaves out nothing that adds to the meaning of the speech or illustrates the argument."

In the 72 years covered by the first 1,000 volumes there have been 10 editors. The present editor is Mr Kenneth Morgan, who joined the Press Gallery for Reuters in 1952 and moved on to Hansard as a reporter two years later.

In those days there were 18 reporters, an editor and three assistant editors. Now there are 24 reporters and seven deputy and assistant editors, plus 25 transcribers who work mainly on committee reports, three principal transcribers and 10 other staff, making a total of 74.

But the basis of the Official Report is still a reporter writing shorthand. Even though they now have the assistance of tape recorders, Mr Morgan says that what matters is the shorthand note, especially in an argument.

However, the old basis of recruiting has gone. No longer does Hansard recruit newspaper reporters with a sufficiently fast shorthand note and parliamentary experience under their belts.

Recruits now come mainly from among the transcribers with shorthand ability or from college with a decent degree.

What speed do they need? "I don't think you can go into the box and report until you can write at 180 words a minute," says Mr Morgan, "and then you will need all sorts of assistance."

John Winder

Sportsview

A winning partner for Nick Faldo

His place in the Ryder Cup team against the United States was the back door, or rather the side door, which gave him his chance to take the Americans on, "working as a team". They set out from the beginning with the positive commitment to stick there eight weeks, although he had exemption for only three tournaments and therefore only three certain weeks of golf.

He needed only one exemption, playing so well, and he qualified for succeeding events by dint of his own efforts week by week. That was until he was struck down by flu in Florida recently.

"We thought positively from the very start," Melanie says. Yet they have in one way surpassed themselves. She keeps a supply of photographs ready for autograph requests but had not expected they would be needed. She was agreeably surprised to be caught out.

Melanie Faldo is pretty, with a hint about her of the younger Elizabeth Taylor, but one might have feared that she would be

the pushy kind of wife (or husband, for that matter), who has ruined more than one golfer. Certainly, she is intensely ambitious for her husband, but fortunately her character embodies a wealth of common sense. Were it otherwise, Nicholas might have found it hard to accept her constructive criticisms, particularly in the matter of personal behaviour. He once had a reputation for perulience, and boorishness when things went wrong.

All that, she thinks, is in the past. "I've told him, when he's stepped out of line, that he has a responsibility to the public and the press. Our understanding is such that he knows that if I say a harsh word it is for his own good."

Melanie is not a golfer herself, which may be something of a blessing. There are too many people around who are presumptuous enough to tell a professional what he ought to be doing with his knee, that hip, the other shoulder.

About the mechanics of hitting a golf ball Nicholas



Nick and Melanie Faldo.

listens to only one person, Gerald Micklen, one of the Royal and Ancient's respected elders. In all other matters he seeks the advice of his wife. They make an appealing, and formidable partnership.

John Hennessy



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

DIVIDED THEY STAND

The political authority of any Cabinet is bound to be damaged when it is known that nearly half its members have reservations of varying degrees about such a central item of its strategy as the Budget. It is even worse when the Prime Minister feels it necessary to launch a public assault upon her recalcitrant colleagues. The disarray is evident, but how lasting will it be?

This has never been a united Cabinet. When Mrs Thatcher was elected leader of the Conservative Party six years ago she deposed Mr Heath but she inherited the Heathenism. She was chosen partly for her personal qualities and partly as the most determined advocate of a doctrine to which a majority of the Shadow Cabinet had not been converted in theory she could have changed the Shadow Cabinet to ensure that it was composed of kindred spirits. In practice that was not feasible because it would have required getting rid of too many political heavyweights in the mid flow of their careers. The case for keeping them was all the stronger as they were not banking on the return of Mr Heath. They were loyal to her personally. They were simply dubious about pushing her doctrine as far as she would wish to push it herself.

So Mrs Thatcher in effect settled for a compromise. Her Shadow Cabinet and now her Cabinet have included only a minority of convinced monetarists, though the majority would certainly accept that the

country has needed a more rigorous monetary policy than has been customary in the past. At the same time, the monetarists have been put in charge of the key economic departments—with the sole exception of the Department of Employment, if it is to be put in that category.

This has meant that the Cabinet has a shifting majority, varying not according to the issue but according to whether the decisions are taken by the economic ministers by themselves or in full Cabinet. Public expenditure cuts are ultimately determined in full Cabinet, so the Prime Minister has to accept compromise; the Budget is presented to the full Cabinet too late for it to be changed, so the Prime Minister gets her way. This is what has provoked a sense of frustration going beyond mere disagreement on policy.

The immediate row will blow over. No ministerial resignations are expected. The Finance Bill may have a bumpy ride through the House, but it will get through with the structure of the Chancellor's policy intact. Already Tory instinct to stand together in times of trouble has once again become evident on the backbenches. But it would be facile to conclude from this that the Government will shortly be moving into a more congenial political atmosphere.

The local elections in May will almost certainly deal a severe blow to Conservative Party morale. Unless there are early signs of economic improvement,

doubts about the Government's strategy will soon multiply among Conservatives in Parliament and in the country. The Government is therefore likely to be moving into a difficult phase that would test the nerve and judgment of even a united administration. Unless Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues can establish greater understanding among themselves they will be in no condition to meet this challenge.

It is not unusual, of course, for Prime Ministers to manipulate the Cabinet committee system so as to secure the greatest possible measure of agreement for their policies. But a point has now been reached where the Government will suffer severe and mounting political damage if there is not greater collective consent for the economic policies pursued in its name. The composition of the Cabinet will not make this easy, but it does not render it impossible either if there is adequate consultation. This principle should not apply only to the preparation of the Budget—though it certainly is relevant there. It also requires the Prime Minister to overcome her distaste for broad Cabinet discussions of general economic strategy.

The political weather may well become rough. But if ministers achieve greater cohesion among themselves they still have time to recover their popularity before the next election, which is likely to be two and a half to three years away. There is no reason why the political damage of this week must be mortal.

DR RUNCIE'S DIALOGUE WITH ROME

The Archbishop of Canterbury has conversations this weekend with the Archbishop of Malines-Brussels. Malines—the very word is like a bell... sounding the false spring of Anglican-Roman reconciliation when Lord Halifax and Cardinal Mercier went arm in arm towards the roadblock put in their way by the Vatican and the English Roman Catholic hierarchy.

So cordial have relations between these two churches since become, and so surprisingly long is the distance covered by authorized, but still unratified, joint studies of doctrinal convergence, that there is keenness on both sides to sustain the momentum. Dr Runcie's predecessor, Lord Cogan, when in Rome and when in the pulpit of the Roman Catholic cathedral at Westminster, urged reciprocal communion. He was courteously reminded that for Rome sharing the sacrament is a sign of unity following on full ecclesial communion, not a means of anticipating it or speeding its arrival. Nothing followed from his initiative respecting Rome's disciplinary rules, though something may have followed respecting the observance of them.

Dr Runcie in a notable address this week took a different approach to the same objective. He went straight for the main bone of contention in the sixteenth-century schism, the primacy of the pope. He argued that diversity in unity—unity in fundamentals; diversity in the expression of them, and as regards essentials—was a mark of the Catholic Church in New Testament times and in the early Christian centuries. He argued further that the same principle was carried over into the Eliza-

bethan settlement of the Church of England, which led him to a useful formulation of Anglican comprehensiveness:

Rightly understood it is the achievement of unity in diversity through the distinction of the essential from the non-essential, by means of the Holy Scriptures interpreted by tradition in the light of reason, all expressed in and through the corporate worship of the church.

It is an idealized portrait of Anglicanism, which has its share of liturgical confusion and evasion of doctrine, but it is the self-portrait the church would wish to carry with it on the road to Rome. Dr Runcie very understandably seeks assurances about its compatibility with recognition of the papal primacy.

What is involved and what is not involved, he asks of Roman Catholics, in acceptance of the universal ministry of the Bishop of Rome? At this crucial point, unfortunately, he lapses into ecumenical mistiness, of which his address is otherwise conspicuously free. "Would this mean, at the most, a form of universal presidency, in charity when essential matters of faith are at stake?"

Peering past that blur one sees a chessman on the far side of which are the spiritual claims of the papacy, deeply rooted in history, brought to breath-taking extremity at the first Vatican Council and confirmed at the second, though in a manner and context which limit and soften them a bit. They are claims of both authority and jurisdiction. Can one see the central institutions of the Roman church or for that matter Pope John Paul II melting the universal magistratum and jurisdiction of the papacy into a universal presidency? There is a current

flowing in from the local churches in the Roman communion that would curtail and modify the exercise of papal and curial authority, but it stops a long way short of what Canterbury would require to end the breach with Rome.

And yet, the Vatican has entered into official theological dialogue with the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches with a view to unity. The intention is plainly serious. It is also plain that nothing will come of it unless Rome respects the rites, disciplines, identities and doctrinal variations of those churches. Dr Runcie's is not the only reconnaissance of that route to reunion.

The thirst for Christian unity and the sense that Christ laid on all men a duty to achieve unity in his name are pronounced and perhaps peculiar marks of this age. It is certainly the source of the new cordiality and mutual respect that governs the conduct of the separate churches and churchmen towards each other, and of their openness to each other's good points. Perhaps continuing search for unity is necessary to sustain the reformation of inter-church behaviour that has already taken place.

If however that good behaviour could be self-sustaining, and since it already embodies a large (by human standards) measure of common purpose, cooperation and charity, there would be less need than generally appears to be felt to strain towards the final consummation of corporate reunion. A noble goal, but productive of a formidable scale and complexity of organization, and of as great a sense of loss as of homecoming.

Chancellor's distribution of recession burdens

From Mr Christopher Bland

Sir, W. C. Fields remarked that anyone who hates small dogs and children can't be all bad; on the same basis, neither can a Budget that has attracted the unanimous criticism of the CBI and the TUC. It is a Budget that has enabled interest rates to be reduced by 2 per cent; it provides a basis for further reductions. And while the Budget's critics, inside and outside the Cabinet, persistently refuse to recognize any links between expenditure, taxation and interest rates, the favourable response of the gilt-edged market is a more valuable commentary on this aspect of the Chancellor's performance.

The Budget's and the Government's main defect is the continued failure to grapple with government expenditure—and resistance is already building up to necessary Treasury plans for further economies. Cuts so far have concentrated on capital rather than current account, an attitude as shortsighted as its effects, except on the construction industry, are short-lived.

Your Education Correspondent's front page article on Thursday (March 12) highlighted the contrast between public and private suffering as a result of the recession through her cuts in universities... is being openly discussed. The closure of whole companies is far past the discussion stage amongst large and small businesses alike. Unless real economies are made in the non-productive sectors of the public service—and that can only mean reductions in manpower levels—it will be the private sector that continues to bear an unfair share of the burden of recession. Any chance of success for the present economic strategy will be seriously limited as a result.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BLAND, Chairman,
Causton House,
Hopiton Street, SE1.

From Mr Nigel Forman, MP for Sutton, Carshalton (Conservative)
Sir, Your excellent leader on March 13 posed most of the right questions for the Conservative Party at this stage of the economic and political cycle.

I suggest that it is already clear to most of us that the Conservative benches that monetary control is a necessary but not a sufficient means of reducing inflation. Sensible Governments, including the present one, recognize that there is also a place for cash limits on public spending, the encouragement of public saving, the restoration of buoyancy to excise duties, the raising of revenue from direct taxation and the control of public

sector pay by reference to what the nation can afford.

When dealing with your other more fundamental questions, it is surely wise for politicians to eschew competition between different moral imperatives. Let us leave that sort of discussion to the bishops, as Harold Macmillan once said. We politicians should be concerned with more worldly considerations.

For example, it is self-evident that it is not worth paying simply any price to get rid of the higher unemployment and reduced corporate viability in order to squeeze inflation out of the system, as the saying now goes. If that were the case, then in the end all we would achieve would be a balancing of the books in a society in which the keeping of the national accounts would have become the least of our concerns. Furthermore, you are quite right to cast doubt on the obsession with the PSBR, since it must always be a residual in the vast and unpredictable movements of public resources. There is no more reason why sensible politicians should pay homage to the PSBR than to M3 or any of the other totems of economic policy.

It must also be right to distinguish in the public sector between investment spending and current spending on wages and salaries. The exact same way as those in the private sector have always done. Of course, it is wise in a recession to increase our spending on such projects as rail electrification, sewerage systems and energy conservation, just as it is wise to invest in people by devoting a larger share of the available resources to training and retraining for the skills of the future.

If all these things were to be necessary, a very low limit on public sector pay—even a pay freeze, which we have never ruled out—then so be it. It may also be necessary in due course to consider a variety of constitutional and institutional changes, such as the idea borrowed from some thoughtful observers of the political scene in the United States, that there should be longer, fixed term Parliaments which ought to make it easier for all governments to pursue what they judge to be the most sensible and responsible policies.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL FORMAN,
House of Commons,
March 13.

From Mr S. H. Salter
Sir, The extra duty on petrol will have the desirable effect of encouraging us all to use it with greater care. But it will have serious results for people living in isolated areas of the United Kingdom, such as the Cornish peninsula and the Highlands of Scotland. For them private cars are now not a luxury.

Should we perhaps move away from the idea of a constant tax on

petrol and instead arrange for a gradient in excise duty which reflects the distances that must be travelled for necessities? We need a measure which is some sort of smooth inverse of population density. One could, by hand and eye, draw contours of loneliness on a map. Alternatively it would be easy for modern computers to transform a population density map into one which showed the sum of the distances to the nearest hundred thousand people. This indicator would be a fair measure of how much must be spent on petrol to buy food, visit the dentist, get a haircut or a spare part for your tractor.

It does not seem to be difficult to rework suitable figures for a London weighting allowance. We should be able to devise a rule to calculate the duty to be paid on petrol at any filling station. In this way we could have one of the causes of rural depopulation without encouraging townfolk to drive down the excise gradient to fill their tanks. Yours faithfully,
S. H. SALTER,
143 East Trunk Road,
Edinburgh,
March 12.

From Mr P. J. Stewart
Sir, The hurt done by not raising income tax allowances could be greatly alleviated by an amendment allowing families with only one earner to add the wife's earned income allowance to the married couple's tax allowance. This would take many of the most hard-pressed households out of the tax net without affecting the position of families with two incomes.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP J. STEWART,
St Cross College,
Oxford,
March 12.

From Mr Fred Hardman
Sir, For the Prime Minister and Chancellor to present a Budget that provoked so much critical clamour leads me to believe that the Government must be right. For one thing, that has happened in past years with frightening consistency is that although many Governments have seen the problem and been prepared to put forward the solutions, until Margaret Thatcher's Government they have failed to see the policies through. Of course this is a Budget that creates problems for many people but the failure to keep this country away from the terrible dangers of printed money is absolutely essential.

Yours sincerely,
FRED HARDMAN,
Copple House,
Coalsbrook Lane,
Telford,
Shropshire,
March 12.

overseas aid and reequipment of industry.

At Vienna the governments of the world have for several years been negotiating conventional arms limitation. So far they have failed to reduce them by a single rifle. The reason is that each nation is so suspicious of the others that it requires them to act first. The only way to cut this vicious circle is for one or more nations to have the sense and courage to say: whatever you do, we are making forthwith a limited reduction, and if you respond we will go further along that road.

That is what Mr Khrushchev did in 1962. And he received a response from Mr Kennedy, who made a similar cut-back in United States forces. Unfortunately the Vietnam war put paid to that process. At present, there is a nuclear arms race, the most terrible the world has ever seen, which can result only as all previous arms races have done.

Mr Thompson says, the only alternative is to engage in direct initiatives (initial measures of disarmament) and negotiations. That is the way to secure multilateral disarmament, which nearly every government upholds.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAIN, Chairman,
Labour Action for Peace,
House of Commons.

Relations with Albania

From Mr William Wilson, MP for Coventry SE (Labour), and others

Sir, Britain has longstanding relations with that part of Europe we now call Albania, a country which since World War II has been and remains the most independent of the communist countries.

Today for Albania's advancement she needs to pursue plant machinery and technology. Albania usually pays cash for what she buys. Britain for reasons largely of our own making is virtually a non-participant in the Albanian market.

The story of sunken British ships in the Corfu Channel and who was or was not responsible; the holding of Albania's gold in the Bank of England and the refusal of our various governments to return that which was plundered by Hitler are now well documented.

We believe that the time has come for the British Government to establish full relations with the Albanian Government. It would be wrong for Britain to continue to refuse to recognize the Albanian purely legal and relatively insubstantial claim against the return to Albania of what in equity is rightly hers.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WILSON,
JAMES LAMOND,
ERNE ROBERTS,
RUSSELL JOHNSTON,
STAN NEWENS,
DAFYDD WIGLEY,
IVOR STANBROOK,
House of Commons,
March 9.

The Pope and birth control

From Fr Bernard Orchard

Sir, I am surprised that your Religious Affairs Correspondent, Mr Clifford Longley, should take it upon himself to raise (March 9) the issue of the Pope's intransigent opposition to artificial contraception with two such feeble and irrelevant arguments as the fear of "overpopulation" (whatever that may mean) and the claim that the Pope is being coaxed and conditioned by his Curia. For both are irrelevant to the great moral issue.

His inference that contraception is the cure for "overpopulation" is one that has already been largely rejected by the Third World itself, whatever western secular morality may think. Furthermore it is merely a contrived device to represent the Pope as an ambivalent moral force, as capable of as much evil as good. The shallow glimmer of his article is surely a sign of the bankruptcy of genuine arguments, and lays him open to the charge of acting as a stalking-horse for certain disaffected Roman Catholics.

The Pope knows that the whole moral health of the world is involved in his fight against contraception. It is mankind's supernatural destiny that is at stake, in his entry into the Kingdom of Heaven; and so, at least for the Catholics, the last word about what is vital to attain it must lie with the man who has the God-given authority to decide.

I am, yours truly,
BERNARD ORCHARD, OSB,
Ealing Abbey,
Ealing, W5.

Disarmament initiative

From Mr Frank Allain, MP for Salford East (Labour)

Sir, In your issue of Friday, March 6, Mr E. P. Thompson's letter powerfully argues the case for limited unilateral disarmament. One frontbench socialist spokesman, a multilateralist who had read the letter three times, told me he believed it offered a bridge between the unilateral and multilateral positions.

There must be few who would advocate complete unilateral disarmament. A course of serious sensible, indeed realistic, but it would not for many years be likely to be adopted by a majority of British people. However, there are millions who would welcome a limited step, who are not prepared to wait until every other nation has accepted all-round disarmament. Clearly for the countries of Western Europe the best unilateral reduction would be of nuclear arms.

For Britain this would mean we would be less of a priority target if war broke out. Secondly, we would not be in the immoral act of wiping out, at the touch of a button, millions of innocent civilian lives in another country. Thirdly, the £5 billion minimum on the Trident would be saved for housing, health, education,

Canada's Constitution

From Dr Geoffrey Marshall

Sir, Since nobody, and certainly not Canada, has requested and consented to Mr Maxwell-Hyslop's British North America Act (Amendment) Bill (letter, March 10), it is open to substantially the same objection as Lord Alport's proposal (letter, March 5), that it would be in breach of the convention that United Kingdom law should not extend to a dominion as part of its law except at the request and with the consent of the dominion.

Lord Alport's proposal to repeal section 7 of the Statute of Westminster would not only be in breach of the convention, but would, by the terms of section 4 of the statute, fail to extend to Canada as part of its law (unless it contained a false recital of Canada's request and consent, which Lord Alport is presumably not thinking of including).

The effect of repealing section 7 of the Statute of Westminster would not be as Mr Maxwell-Hyslop suggests. It would remove the bar to the Federal Executive's exercise of the power given by section 2 of the statute to repeal British legislation extending to the dominion (including the British North America Act of 1867) and thereby patriate constituent power simply to the federal authority.

It was precisely to prevent that that Canada requested the insertion of section 7 in 1931. Section 7 is not (as Lord Alport suggests) "the last evidence of Canada's colonial status" but a part of its federal Constitution, which Lord Alport and Mr Maxwell-Hyslop are now proposing unilaterally to take away. That would be imperialist legislation with a vengeance.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY MARSHALL,
The Queen's College,
Oxford,
March 10.

EEC quantum theory

From Mr G. H. Peters

Sir, Lord Walton (March 3) puts forward for consideration a "quantum" scheme for grain which he contends, will provide a solution to European over-production. The proposal appears to be simple. Having fixed a "quantum" which would be supported at a price designed to "give a fair return to the farmer" further responsibility for the purchase of additional grain would extend only to intervention buying "at world prices". In this way, he says, the "final price paid to farmers will reflect the amount of the surplus and the price received for it".

Unfortunately while the economics have much to commend it there are problems surrounding the administration of such a scheme. Equity between farmers, as well as orderly marketing, suggests that each should receive a similar average price after allowance for grade, period of sale and location. To achieve this aim a complex administrative system would need to be created. There is British experience to draw on (the old deficiency payments scheme, including standard quantities for some products, demanded it) but the cost of the necessary European bureaucracy, set up largely *ad initio*, would be high.

It would have been useful if Lord Walton could have been more reassuring on this point. He did put forward a similar scheme in your column in 1973, which I challenged on grounds of administrative expediency. No reply was forthcoming then. I wonder if he can now answer.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. PETERS,
University of Oxford Institute of Agricultural Economics,
Dartington House,
Little Clarendon Street,
Oxford,
March 9.

How to deal with party splits

From Lord Paget of Northampton, QC

Sir, Lord Lever has performed a valued service in drawing attention to the manner in which experienced Labour councillors are being expelled as a result of unrepresentative left-wing conspiracies (report, March 11). In Northamptonshire the victims have turned to social democracy and are contesting the county council elections.

I sympathize with the individuals, many of whom are old and dear friends, but deplore their action. They should fight inside the Labour Party if necessary as individuals but never surrendering their right place within the British Labour movement.

We are a parliamentary democracy. Power rests in our Parliament and within our councils. The function of party is complete when the candidate is elected. He or she then becomes responsible not to a party but to the vastly larger body of electors who vote.

Every MP or councillor who is threatened with withdrawal of support within his party by reason of the claims of an activist group to substitute their unelected judgement for his (or hers) should reply, "I am the Labour member or councillor. At the next election I shall go before my electorate and ask for re-election in that capacity. Only the electorate can change my title. If you try to split the vote that will be your responsibility."

Members who have done a good job and defend it boldly will, in the great majority of cases, win. Yours obediently,
PAGET,
House of Lords.

From Mr D. K. Hickling

Sir, It is not so much the content of Lord Lever's accusations in the *London Review of Books* that should be treated with concern but, in fact, Lord Lever's own implicit assumption that such a shift in the balance of power within the Labour Party is in some way undemocratic, and, indeed, unconstitutional.

If the Labour left are sufficiently motivated by their own strength of conviction to get off their butts and actually do something about the social and economic Armageddon we are heading for, then more power to their elbows. Democracy only works for those who participate, and if the so-called "moderates" choose not to, their incessant whimpering becomes sheer hypocrisy and a source of increasing friction between the factions of the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully,
D. K. HICKLING,
Shoia,
Hall Lane,
Wacton,
Norwich,
March 12.

Tunncliffe collection

From Sir Donald Gibson and others

Sir, Those who know the work of the artist or who had the privilege of knowing the man, Charles Tunncliffe, will be as dismayed as we are at the news that the vast and important collection of his measured drawings and sketch-books are to be sold off in job lots at an auction (*The Times*, March 4). He was immensely proud of this unique material on which he had worked so meticulously for more than thirty years. The thought that the whole collection would some day be broken up to be sold as individual items would have caused him great pain.

The collection is essential to an understanding of how this great but modest artist went about producing his finished paintings, and to an appreciation of the extent to which he strove always to express in his art the truth in nature. Furthermore the measured drawings are a record of excellence in its accuracy of the news that the colouring and the physical dimensions of a large number of wild species of British animals and birds as they were observed by a highly skilled naturalist in the middle decades of the twentieth century; and as such they are a treasure of scientific value no less than their artistic value.

Should anyone suggest that the drawings of Leonardo be sold off individually or that Turner's notebooks be auctioned by the page he would be met with the same response. No better than vandals. Somehow a way must be found to ensure that the work of Charles Tunncliffe shall be preserved intact for posterity.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD GIBSON,
O. VAUGHAN JONES,
C. WYNNE GRIFFITH,
GRACE GIBSON,
GWYNETH REES WYNNE,
GWYNETH REES WYNNE,
Brn Castell,
Llanddona,
Beaumaris,
Isle of Anglesey,
Gwynedd,
March 5.

Celebrating a royal event

From Mrs C. H. Christie

Sir, May a loyal subject humbly suggest through your columns that HRH the Prince of Wales allow a Prince of Wales wedding gift fund to be set up along the lines of the King George V Silver Jubilee Fund? This would mean that thousands of well-wishers, individuals, groups, corporations or local authorities, instead of inundating Prince Charles with superfluous gifts, could contribute to one large, excitingly imaginative national gift.

King George V's Jubilee Fund provided playing fields throughout the land. The Prince of Wales's wedding gift could be a similar national project, social, medical, geographical, historical, or it could be a series of more local projects.

The choice should finally be the Prince of Wales's own, but maybe your readers could help with specific suggestions for a national gift worthy of a dedicated Prince of Wales.

Yours faithfully,
NARDA CHRISTIE,
Voor Veen,
Zandvoort,
St Ives, Cornwall.

ROYAL FINANCES CATCH THE EYE

"Queen gets 12 per cent", "Royals Beat Pay Freeze", &c. This much headlined item from the mass of financial news on Budget day is based on the annual misreading of the Civil List. An increase does not represent an increase in the personal incomes of the Queen and the members of her family who are on it. There is a small element of that, but what it really represents is an increase in the costs of performing the public duties of Head of State and the associated duties of members of the Royal Family. Other people's wages take most of it.

The figure for 1981 (£3,964,200 net in total) was determined on the same basis as other cash limits for the "public sector". Allowance was made for the effect in a full year of the 1980 pay rise in line with that for civil servants; and in the forthcoming year provision has been made for price increases of 11 per cent and pay increases of 6 per cent from the point at which they become

due. It amounts to a total increase of 10 per cent for the new financial year. The Civil List Acts deal in calendar years: it is the 12 per cent for 1981 over 1980, the higher percentage being accounted for by the difference in the periods of comparison at a time of falling inflation. This is one cash limit that is not overrun—or if it is, if the expenses connected with the public duties of royalty exceed the sums voted by Parliament, the deficit is made up from personal resources usually the Queen's.

So it is £3,964,200 for the public duties of the Monarchy in 1981 and it is £9,020,000 for the pleasures of the Royal Opera House. Are the Tribunes of the People sure they are on target?

The royal red herring which comes with every new Civil List was particularly active this time because of the level of unemployment, the recession and the imposition of new taxes. It was held to point an apparent contrast

between the protected affluence of royalty and the hardships undergone by more and more of the Queen's subjects. There is a warning implicit in this treatment of the royal finances.

The royal marriage in July will be a happy, cheerful and cheering event. Pageantry and making merry are of its essence and part of its almost assured popularity. No one wants austerity for that wedding day. But the stage management and the ballyhoo of press and television coverage call for discretion. A much larger part of the people than usual will be going through hard times. They could easily be made to feel excluded from what should be a national occasion. A public holiday is no treat for the out-of-work. A celebration surrounding the future King and his bride that somehow came across as the rich and gilded youth would leave a sour taste in many mouths.

Cuts in social surveys

From Professor Harvey Goldstein

Sir, I was dismayed to read your report (March 11) of Sir Derek Rayner's proposals for a 40 per cent cut in the budget and staff of the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS).

The Social Survey Division of OPCS has long enjoyed an international reputation for the extremely high standards it has developed and maintained in areas such as sampling, coding and data processing. It has played a leading role in improving existing survey practices and in developing new methodology, for example in the important areas of postcode sampling and longitudinal surveys. The benefits of this work are felt both by the academic

world and by the private market research community.

On the same day as you reported these proposals, you also reported that government expenditure on the research councils was to be maintained at the present level. The Statistics Committee of the Social Science Research Council is concerned with helping to ensure that survey work in the social sciences in areas such as economics, education, planning, etc., maintains a high level of technical competence. As chairman of the Statistics Committee I do of course welcome the decision not to cut the research councils' budgets, but Sir Derek's proposals inevitably will have the effect of making the committee's work more difficult.

The existence of a centre of excellence such as the Social Sur-

vey Division is very important for this work both directly in supplying expert advice and indirectly by helping to develop sound methodologies for use by practitioners. To cut the budget and staff by the amount proposed would seriously impair the ability of the division to carry out such functions. I trust that the Government will think very carefully about all the implications of Sir Derek's proposals before reaching a decision and I would urge them to ensure that the work of the division suffers no harm.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY GOLDSTEIN,
Professor of Statistical Methods,
University of London Institute of Education,
Bedford Way, WCL,
March 12.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets

FT Ind 477.2 down 3.8
FT Gilt 66.65 down 0.01

Sterling

\$2.2185 down 10 pts
Index 99.1 unchanged

Dollar

Index 99.8 down 0.2
DM 2.1095 down 25 pts

Gold

\$493.50 up \$17

Money

3 mth sterling 124.124
3 mth Euro \$ 154.154
6 mth Euro \$ 154.154

IN BRIEF

'£300m bill' for cutback on training

Employers could face a bill of up to £300m if the Government abolishes the Statutory Industrial Training Boards, a former Employment Minister said yesterday.

Mr Harold Walker, Minister of State at the Department of Employment in the last government, told a TUC-organized conference in London that the cost of winding up the boards could be between £250 million and £300 million. The government had powers under the 1964 Act to make employers pay such closing costs, he said.

The conference called to plan resistance to the dismantling of the present training board structure, heard that the Manpower Services Commission told the chairman of the 24 boards that it will stop paying their operating costs at the end of this year. The Employment and Training Bill, at present before parliament, empowers boards to recover such costs from employers in future, but ministerial statements have implied that the change would be phased over two years.

Ships credit plea

Improved credit facilities for British shipowners, aimed at stimulating the level of orders placed with the country's beleaguered shipyards were called for last night by Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of British Shipbuilders.

S100m truck deal

International Harvester has won a \$100m (£45m) order from Iraq for 7,800 trucks, about half the total number the company exports annually.

Japan-EEC trade

Japan's exports to the European Economic Community rose 2.6 per cent to \$1,642m in February, slowing down from a 4.3 per cent rate of increase in the previous month. Imports from the EEC edged down 0.4 per cent to \$634.8m (£283m).

IMF finance hopes

The problem of new financing for the International Monetary Fund could be solved by May, Mr Rose Monroy, chairman of the IMF's interim committee, said in a newspaper interview.

Satellite contract

Murconi Communications Systems have won a £5m contract to convert the British Telecom satellite earth station, Goughley 4, for use with the Intelsat V communications satellite.

Video disc launch

Video discs for the Japanese VHS system developed by JVC will be launched in Britain in June, 1982, according to Thorn-EMI. The Japanese disc will be 26 cm in diameter, be made of plastic and have no groove.

Aerospace jobs cut

British Aerospace is to shed 295 jobs at its Loughborough, Lancashire, guided-weapon works because of the defence spending cuts. The company blamed cutbacks on orders for the Sky Flash Mark One, Sea Eagle air missile and other weapons.

SDR rates

The dollar's exchange rate against the SDR yesterday was 1.2274 while the £=SDR rate was 0.353809.

Competition for savings limits mortgage rate cut to 1 point

By Margaret Stone
Mortgage interest rate is coming down from 14 per cent to 13 per cent and there will be a drop in the net rate paid to investors from 9.25 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

Mr Leonard Williams, chairman of the Building Societies Association, said yesterday that were it not for the renewed pressure from the Government for personal savings interest rates would now be lower.

The last time that minimum lending rate was at 12 per cent the mortgage rate was only 11.75 per cent.

Yesterday's decision, which was unanimous, was made with investors in mind rather than borrowers. Building societies are facing with increased competition from National Savings after the Budget announcement that the age limit for second issue retirement National Savings certificates, "Granny" bonds, would be reduced to 50 years.

About 20 per cent of the movement's total investors are in this 50 to 60 age group and this, combined with the 45 per cent of investors over 60 years of age, makes the societies particularly vulnerable to National Savings. An uncomfortable April for net receipts is predicted.

Net receipts in February fell to £366m from £446m in January (traditionally a good month for building society income). But the firm decision to figure related to the level of advances promised by building societies to borrowers which amounted to a record £1,072m. Mr Williams confirmed that

Bank union ballots members over strike

By David Felton
Labour Reporter
The threat of industrial action in the banking sector increased last night after the two main unions rejected an improved 91 per cent pay offer and one of 7,000 workers in important computer centres. Officials of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) said last night that they were confident their members in the computer centres would vote to strike if the employers refused to improve their pay offer.

Both Bifu, with 70,000 clerical members in the main high street banks, and the Clearing Bank Union (CBU) which has 90,000 members rejected the offer which had been improved from 81 per cent. The unions are seeking a cost-of-living increase which they estimate would be worth about 13 per cent.

Staff being balloted by Bifu work at the Lloyds Bank computer centre in the City and the two Barclays computer centres at Wythenshawe, near

Manchester, and Gloucester. Strike action would have almost no immediate effect on customers, but it would halt the clearing of cheques and would cause big disruption.

Bifu has drawn up plans to escalate the dispute, if necessary, to involve other banks but Lloyds and Barclays were chosen because they have not been involved in industrial action by the union over the last two years.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of Bifu, accused the Federation of Clearing Bank Employers of "delaying tactics" in the hope that the retail price index would fall. He said the union's 20 per cent claim had been submitted last November to leave plenty of time for a settlement to be negotiated for implementation on April 1.

Over the past month Bifu has been holding consultation meetings around the country to gauge members' willingness to take industrial action. "Nobody wants to accept less than the rate of inflation", Mr Mills said.

Three directors of property and insurance group Gilgate Holdings, the subject of a Department of Trade inquiry, were banned from holding directorships or any managerial control over any company by the High Court yesterday.

Mr Christopher Reynolds, Gilgate's company secretary and a chartered accountant, was banned for four years; the group's chairman, Mr John Kidd, a solicitor, was banned for three and a half years; and another of its directors, Mr David Lucas, an estate agent, was banned for two years.

The case was brought by the Department of Trade under Section 28 of the Companies Act 1976, which says that where directors are in persistent default of registration of documents with the Registrar a court order may be made banning directors from being concerned with the management of any company for a period not exceeding five years.

But the ban will not come into force immediately. The judge postponed making the order to give the directors a chance to apply for a longer postponement, which they say is needed to tidy up outstanding business affairs. The directors will appear again on March 27.

The Department of Trade applied to the court for all three directors to be banned for five years because of "persistent breaches of company law".

The judge, Sir Robert Megarry, said Mr Kidd had been in default a total of 134 times in relation to filing accounts or returns. Mr Reynolds had been in default 130 times and Mr Lucas 119 times. Mr Kidd and Mr Reynolds each had 10 convictions relating to such defaults and Mr Lucas three convictions relating to accounts defaults.

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Legal wrangle continues over status of main contractor

Nuclear contracts delayed again

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Contracts for the main nuclear components of the planned British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors at Heysham, Lancashire, and Torness, East Lothian, have been delayed again because of a continuing disagreement between the National Nuclear Corporation (NNC) and the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The delay in the placing of firm orders will be a cause of increasing concern to Northern Engineering Industries and Babcock & Wilcox, the boilermakers for the two stations who have already begun preliminary work on the equipment.

Difficulties over the relationship between the National Nuclear Corporation and the CEGB developed before Christmas.

Earlier last year, the NNC was re-organized under the chairmanship of Mr

Denis Rooney, who joined the corporation from BICC International. It had been intended that there would be a smooth and orderly placing of contracts with the NNC acting as main contractor to the CEGB and its sister authority in Scotland, the South of Scotland Electricity Board.

However, it emerged that there could be legal difficulties in the event of a default on a contract by one of the component manufacturers as a result of the relatively small capitalization of the NNC.

It appeared that as the NNC had a capital of only £10m, subcontractors with orders worth many times that sum could argue that if they failed to perform to specification, the NNC would have suffered no material loss. Damages would not then be payable and would not be passed on to the electricity authorities.

The solution appeared to be for the NNC to continue to act as main contractor for the nuclear components of the station, with responsibility for its design

in everything but name. Legally it would take the position of the electricity authorities' agent.

The government believed that NNC should be developed as an independent contractor to handle Britain's nuclear programme. It supported the reorganization with Mr Rooney as chairman and was behind NNC taking authority for the nuclear components for the two AGRs and for the whole station when the first American-designed pressurized water reactor was ordered.

The NNC is still worried that by being relegated to the position of agent it will lose most of its authority to the electricity boards, principally the CEGB, and not have real control over the management of the projects.

It has been seeking extensive safeguards from the electricity authorities over what its role should be. So far the NNC has rejected the authorities' offer and the problem will take at least another month to solve.

Chloride's chief to step down



Mr Ray: compensation still to be settled.

By Our Financial Staff
Chloride Group, the British battery maker which plunged into losses last year, is to replace its chief executive.

Mr John Ray, aged 47, who held the post for more than three years after taking over from Sir Michael Edwards, is to step down next Monday. He will be replaced by Mr Ken Hodgson, a main board director and chairman of Chloride Europe.

Last night a group spokesman said: "The directors came to the conclusion that a change was necessary."

"Chloride like much of British manufacturing industry is having a difficult time. The directors constantly review the situation and following recent discussions with John Ray it was mutually agreed he should step down."

Chloride, the world's leading maker of rechargeable batteries, announced an interim loss of £5.1m and passed its dividend.

Mr Ray is understood to have a three-year rolling service contract at a present salary of £57,000.

He remains a chloride director, although the spokesman said that this also was a matter for discussion.

Compensation has still to be agreed.

Government allocates £87m more cash aid for 'lame duck' ports

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

The Government is to provide another £87m for the "lame duck" ports of London and Liverpool on top of the £73m already supplied over the past two years. But the money comes with a clear warning that, if they fail to achieve staff cuts over the next two months, no further aid will be forthcoming and both ports may be forced to close in the late spring.

It was also emphasized by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday that the aid would not be extended to other ports, such as Bristol, in deep financial trouble.

The aid comes in the Ports (Financial Assistance) Bill published yesterday and is due for second reading this month. This time in the first place to provide enhanced severance for dockers, raising the maximum from £10,500 to £16,000 for March and April only. After that, it reverts to £10,500, and ministers will decide whether manpower in each port has been slimmed enough to justify more aid to keep the ports going while further restructuring takes place. Cutbacks of 1,500 men in each port have been sought.

Without aid ministers believe the Port of London Authority would be forced to cease trading on April 1 and the Mersey Dock and Harbour Company a few weeks later. The PLA lost £15m last year and faces interest charges of £13m a year on a £95m debt, £66m to the Government. Mersey lost £5.5m and has interest charges of £7m on a debt of £81m, of which £43m is to the Government. Neither has any worthwhile reserves.

[The announcement of further substantial aid to the ports, only three days after publication of spending plans which made no specific provision for it, is bound to weaken confidence in the Government's spending over the coming year. Our Economics Staff write.] Additional cash for state-owned industries hit by recession was one of the main contributors to the over-boost on public spending.

The £87m will be paid out of next year's £2,500m contingency reserve so will not itself increase the planned public spending total. But with up to £200m promised for the coal industry to avoid early pit closures, over 10 per cent of the contingency reserve has been allocated before the 1981-82 financial year has even begun.]

In yesterday's announcement, Mr Fowler emphasized that there was no government commitment beyond April, and

stringent conditions would be laid down for any further help.

"I shall set each port authority a very tough cash ceiling," he said. "These cash ceilings will be broken down between provision for severance, support for continuing operations and capital investment, and they will apply initially for three months only."

"The Government will only be prepared to provide further financial assistance beyond May if the port authorities have made substantial progress in reducing manpower and eliminating restrictive working practices. I shall need to be satisfied that both management and workforce are committed to making the changes which are essential if these two ports are to have a future."

Part of the £87m provides for further support beyond May but it will not be released unless results are satisfactory, he said. One problem is that no one can force a dockers' leave and success depends on enough of them preferring £16,000 cash (or about £18,000 including commuted pension) to £80 a week fallback pay for life. If the ports shut, they could lose that, and some 500 have already taken application forms for the cash payout in the fortnight since the scheme was announced.

Tunnel rejects 'unwelcome' £95m Ward bid

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Thomas W. Ward is making an unwelcome takeover bid for Tunnel Holdings in an attempt to become the second largest cement maker in the country. The bid values Tunnel at £95m, but it has already been rejected by the Tunnel directors.

The two companies have had a long, though sometimes uneasy, relationship. Ward, based in Sheffield with interests in cement, scrap metal and motor distribution, has had a 26 per cent stake in Tunnel—giving it nearly 30 per cent of the voting rights—since 1973 and the two have also been

partners in the Ribblesdale cement works since before the Second World War.

Tunnel, with 12 per cent of the market, is the third largest British cement maker in an industry dominated by Blue Circle with three-fifths of the market. But, in contrast to Ward, which has about a tenth of the market, Tunnel has been diversifying away from cement.

Mr Derek Birkin, Tunnel's chairman, said the relationship between the two has been uneasy since 1973 when Ward tried unsuccessfully to block Tunnel's diversification into chemicals with a £10m acquisition. This January Tunnel bid

£10m for an American chemicals company, Alcolac.

Tunnel, which made pretax profits up from £5.3m to £7.5m on sales of £54m in the six months to last September, still draws the majority of profits from cement. Ward said yesterday that a merger offered considerable benefits.

Tunnel disagrees strongly and Mr Birkin said he saw "no reason or logic in a merger."

Ward is offering 7 ordinary shares plus 76p cash for every "Tunnel A or B" share. It does not own. With Ward down 2p to 16p yesterday this is equivalent to 393p. It would cost Ward £71m of which £34m

would be cash or a loan note alternative. Tunnel shares, which jumped 22p before the announcement, closed 51p up at 383p.

There was speculation in the stockmarket that Tunnel might attract a counterbid from RTZ, the mining company with which it has trading links, but RTZ denied this.

The bid, which is conditional on the Secretary of State for Trade not referring it to the Monopolies Commission, came as a surprise to Tunnel.

Mr Birkin said there had been no formal talks and Tunnel knew nothing about the bid before Thursday.

Savoy chief hits out at £58m Forte takeover

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

As Trusthouse Forte formally requested the Savoy board to cooperate in proceedings with its £58m scheme of arrangement, bid, the Savoy issued a blistering attack on THF's offer yesterday.

In a BBC radio interview, Sir Hugh Wommer, chairman of the Savoy group, accused Sir Charles Forte, executive chairman of THF, of making the bid to satisfy his "personal vanity". He added: "I have known him (Sir Charles) all his working life and I've always enjoyed my relationship with him."

Sir Hugh said he felt a reply was necessary after Sir Charles had described the Savoy management as a disgrace. "He knows nothing about the running of first class hotels," Sir Hugh said.

Asked about his company's plans for selling off part of the

Savoy Hotel as offices, Sir Hugh said: "It is part of the building that we never intended to be used as part of the hotel."

Sir Hugh said that, if the takeover went through, "our hotel would fall to the level of his. There is nothing personal about this at all. It is not my wish but the wish of shareholders that matters."

Trusthouse Forte now needs cooperation from the Savoy board for arranging meetings of Savoy shareholders at which the THF proposals can be put before them.

However, last night, Sir Hugh said: "I have pointed out that the THF scheme is simply an ingenious way of going round shareholders, so obviously any man with any sense would not cooperate. You don't cooperate in your own extinction, do you?"

Keeping Sir Charles out, page 14

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Future of BL's TR 7 sports car in doubt

BL is reviewing the future of the Triumph TR7, its only surviving sports car. Mounting losses in the United States, which account for nearly two-thirds of the model's sales have raised serious doubts about the car's continued production.

The main problem is the strength of the pound. The TR7's losses have been cut back in recent weeks by the comparative strength of the dollar, but BL is still believed to be losing several hundred pounds on every car sold across the Atlantic.

The group's other sports car, the MGB, ceased production last year, when the Abingdon plant was shut down.

A final decision on whether or not to drop the TR7—which was specifically designed to cash in on California's seemingly insatiable demand for sports cars—will be taken in the next few months.



TR7: Will falling American orders mean end of the road?

A BL spokesman said last night: "The pounds performance against the dollar is crucial to the profitability of the TR7. I would emphasize, however, that no decision has been made, although the model is under review along with other export projects which are having a very hard time at the moment because of a combination of world recession and the over-valuation of sterling."

To stave off the collapse of its retail network in the world's biggest car market, BL is considering the alternative of cutting TR7 costs. One option is the replacement of the present two-litre engine by a more powerful version of the modern "O" series unit used in the Ital and Princeps.

The TR7 engine, which was shared with the now-defunct Triumph Dolomite, at less than 300 units a week is now an uneconomical proposition.

Last year, production of the TR7 and the larger-engined TR8 reached just 16,000 cars.

TR8 production was moved from Triumph's Canley plant to Coventry 10 months ago. It now shares one of two assembly lines with Rover saloons. A third assembly line has been laid up until car markets recover.

Clifford Webb

PRICE CHANGES

Rises
Anglo Am Corp 27p to 619p
Broken Hill 25p to 735p
UKA 15p to 243p
Elburg Gold 2.71 to 2.82
Global Res 15p to 525p

Falls
Regency Expir 23p to 270p
BP 6p to 406p
Gals & Oil Acre 6p to 525p
Lamp 23p to 607p
Imp Cont Gas 12p to 218p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells	buys	sells	buys
Australia \$	1.96	1.88	Norway Kr	12.49	11.84
Austria Sch	34.90	32.70	Portugal Esc	126.00	120.00
Belgium Fr	82.00	78.00	Spain Ptas	194.50	185.50
Canada \$	2.71	2.82	Sweden Kr	10.70	10.50
Denmark Kr	15.35	14.58	Switzerland Fr	4.47	4.24
Finland Mk	9.48	8.58	USA \$	2.27	2.30
France Fr	11.40	10.90	Yugoslavia Dnr	79.00	75.50
Germany DM	4.87	4.63			
Greece Dr	115.50	109.50			
Hong Kong \$	12.10	11.50			
Ireland Pd	1.33	1.27			
Italy Lit	337.00	238.00			
Japan Yen	488.00	452.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.39	5.13			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Capital transfer tax

The shades of estate duty reappear

When the Chancellor announced this capital transfer tax (CTT) changes everybody in this office that that warm and comforting feeling experienced when recognizing an old friend. It seemed that CTT had at last been converted back into estate duty, at least in some important respects.

For many people the tax on their estates will be almost wholly avoidable if they start planning early enough. CTT, as originally conceived, was a cumulative tax on all gifts made during a person's lifetime and then on everything left at death.

So, although the first £50,000 of transfers was hitherto taxed at nil, there was very little incentive to make large gifts during a person's lifetime because the tax was clocked up by the Inland Revenue and would then ultimately bring them into higher tax bands on subsequent gifts and then finally at death.

The benefit of making such gifts, of say, land or shares was solely derived from excluding any growth in the value of the asset from your taxable estate. This would be a worthwhile move but scarcely very exciting.

Most CTT planning was therefore based on investing in exempt assets or using the annual exemption which was £2,000 a year and in the next tax year (1981-82) will be £3,000 per annum.

But now you can start planning to save capital transfer tax—with dramatic effect—on a completely different basis. In future, there will be a crucial difference: gifts and bequests will not be taxed cumulatively if they are made more than 10 years apart.

So, if you make taxable gifts in 1981, they will be added up with your subsequent transfers during the next 10 years but not with any transfers after 1991.

It will therefore be possible to make tax-free gifts every 10 years up to the nil rate threshold (£50,000 per donor) without any tax liability at all. Consequently, a husband and wife can now between them make gifts of up to £100,000 and then make a further gift in 1991 of a further £100,000—or even more, if the threshold has been raised by that time.

What will be the effect in practice? Suppose a husband and wife have total assets of £250,000, including their home.

When the first of them dies, there will be no CTT, if everything is left to the surviving spouse; but when the survivor dies, the tax will be £104,000 at present rates, with the tax on the top £50,000 of the estate at 60 per cent.

It has always been basic CTT planning to try to pass down as much as possible of the nil rate band (£50,000) at this first death, thereby reducing the ultimately taxable estate to £200,000 and bringing down the tax liability at the time of the second death to £74,000.

Now, by making a lifetime gift totalling £100,000 in 1981, the final taxable estate will be reduced to only £100,000, as long as they both survive for 10 years. At present rates the £100,000 gift would make a total saving of £55,000.

Of course, there is a problem if a person makes a gift of £50,000 and then dies before the 10 years are up. The result of death during the "inter vivos" period is that the gift is then added back into the estate in order to calculate the rate of tax that would apply.

So, if both the husband and the wife in our example were to die before the 10-year period, then £100,000 would still pass down when the survivor died, but the £100,000 gift would be added back into the estate for calculating the tax rate that would apply at death, making a total taxable estate of £200,000 and a tax charge of £74,000.

Obviously, it is advisable to cover this particular risk with a life assurance policy for a sum assured equal to the extra tax payable—in this case £74,000 less £19,000—ie, £55,000. Probably the most suitable policy is a 10-year term assurance, which will pay out only if both partners die (ie, a joint life and survivor policy).

However, if there is still a significant CTT liability arising at the second death or if a further gift of capital is likely to be made in the following 10 years, then a whole life policy probably makes more sense if you can afford it.

The Chancellor reduced CTT rates on lifetime transfers, but it is likely that very few people will find it worthwhile to plan to exceed the £50,000 nil rate band and deliberately pay CTT any earlier than strictly necessary. So the new reduced rates

on lifetime transfers have probably very little practical significance.

If you do not make substantial capital gifts of £50,000 in one year as a capital sum, you could now divide it to make further annual tax-free gifts of £5,000 besides the £5,000 annual exemption amount.

This could be very useful if the best way of solving your particular CTT problem is with a large programme of annual gifts—say with a life assurance policy. A married couple can effectively make annual gifts of up to £16,000 per annum free of tax.

CTT has two big advantages over the old estate duty that it now so closely resembles. In the first place husbands and wives can transfer assets freely between themselves. Moreover, and perhaps even more important, giving away assets can be achieved without significantly affecting your future security.

This is because you have always had the possibility under CTT rules to make gifts into a trust so that the trust capital can be made to revert back to the settlor without any further CTT liability. In other words, you can build assets up outside your estate but have the power in effect to draw on those assets if you ever need them.

It is even possible, under the ingenious plans developed by the life insurance industry, to invest into a single premium investment bond gift, the amount of the capital but still draw from the capital what is in effect tax-free income.

What would happen if a Labour Government were to be returned at the next election is another matter, although it seems doubtful whether they would actually legislate retroactively. So the moral is: if you want to take advantage of this new development you should probably do so before 1985 and keep your fingers crossed that any future government does not reverse the position.

In the meantime, for most people capital transfer tax has become close to being a voluntary tax or at least a tax on the badly advised.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Familiar rush-hour sight in a London Underground train: discounts for bulk bought tickets.

Fringe benefits 1: season tickets

Setback for commuters

Commuters have not been cheered by the Budget, for many of them are likely to lose a valuable perk.

As the cost of public transport continues to rise, there is a growing body of travellers who feel that they should get tax relief on the amount that they fork out—from their after-tax income—for travelling to work each day.

Some even see this as a way of helping labour mobility, encouraging people living in an area of high unemployment to travel—within reason—to another area where there are jobs available.

Sir Geoffrey Howe made it clear in his Budget speech that he does not agree with any of this. Rather than extending tax-free travel to one and all, he has clamped down on the one in 10 commuters who already enjoy this perk.

From April 1982 all employees enjoying this fringe benefit, whether they earn above or below the magical figure of £3,500 (the earnings threshold below which the taxation of such benefits does not generally apply)—will have to pay tax on it.

The growing number of companies which have been offering this particular tax-free perk have done so by neatly slipping

through a tax loophole which is all about who fills in the form and pays the money.

If you go along to British Rail, or other carriers, with a cheque made out from your company to buy your season ticket, the payment counts as a taxable perk.

But if your employer negotiates the deal and pays for your ticket it could be tax free. The conditions to be satisfied are first you earn less than £3,500 a year, secondly you do not pay for it indirectly by a salary deduction or have any other "pecuniary liability", nor must it be convertible into cash.

Any rebate on the ticket if it is cashed must go straight to your employer.

Some 100,000 commuters throughout the country buy—or have bought for them—their season tickets with company money, either with cheques or vouchers.

If you travel on the busy commuter route from East Croydon to central London you will see the £364 it costs annually added to your income for tax purposes, increasing the tax bill by some £9 a month to basic rate taxpayers.

The Inland Revenue doubtless became uneasy when a state owned industry, British Rail,

blatantly made use of a particular loophole which the Revenue had been trying to plug. But it was the scheme set up in June last year by TV Travel, part of Lunncheon Vouchers in conjunction with London Transport, which really made them see red.

Under the scheme employers can buy tickets in bulk at a discount for all its employees who can then enjoy free travel on London Transport—both the buses and the underground system—for the year. The ticket not only covers travel to and from work but toing and froing for leisure purposes as well.

The scheme has proved popular. According to London Transport it now covers several thousand commuters and applications are still rolling in.

But the success of the scheme, says London Transport, is not only due to the tax efficiency and it should survive, albeit less attractively, after the Chancellor's purge. As tickets are sold on a bulk basis, the company pays between £300 and £400 an employee for a ticket that would normally cost £670—so even with a £100-£120 tax bill on top, commuters would still be in pocket.

Sylvia Morris

Fringe benefits 2: medical insurance

Group schemes are cheaper

From April next year an employee earning less than £3,500 will no longer have to pay tax on the payments employers make for employees to have private medical insurance treatment.

The move, in fact, goes part of the way to restoring the position before the last Labour government when all contributions paid by an employer into a group scheme for his employees (whatever the salary level, were a tax-free benefit).

Even if you do have to pay tax on the contributions paid in your behalf through a group scheme, it is a much cheaper way of receiving the benefits. Similar levels of benefit can be around one-third cheaper than if you go it alone.

There are a number of provident associations around the country which offer this type of insurance but the field is dominated by three organizations, British United Provident Association (Bupa), Private Patients Plan and Western Provident Association.

Each offer a variety of schemes depending on whether it is to be taken out on an individual or group basis and where you live. The costs are much higher for those who intend to use a London teaching hospital if they fall ill rather than a provincial one, not least because the cost of accommodation in a London hospital is much more expensive.

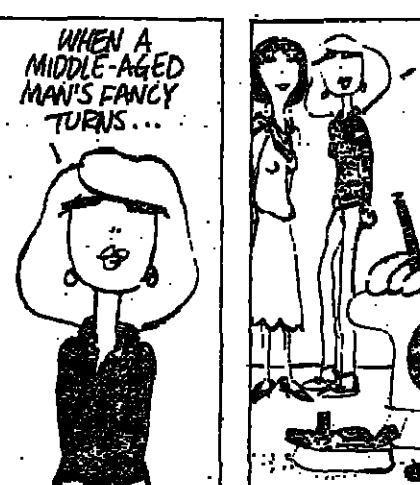
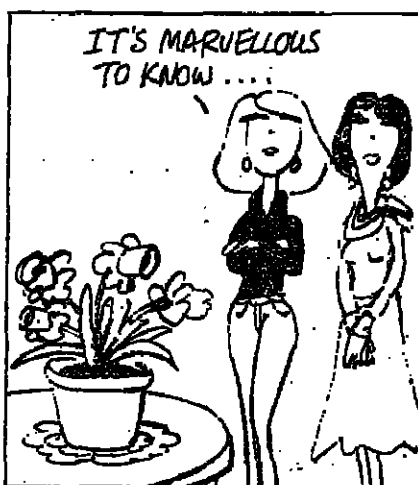
It is in the group schemes

that these organizations have seen the biggest growth in recent years. Bupa, which accounts for over three-quarters of the whole market, has seen this side of its business grow by nearly a third in the past two years.

Bupa estimate that only a small percentage of its subscribers will benefit from the Budget move. Only 15 to 20 per cent of group subscribers actually earn less than £8,500 a year. With average premiums around £100, such employees will see a reduction of around £30 in their tax bills when the concession is introduced next year.

SM

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Taxation

Check list for your year-end planning

Wife's earnings: April 5 is the last date on which a wife's earnings election can be made for 1979/80. It can be worthwhile making the election if combined earnings that year were at least £14,930 of which the wife earned at least £3,795. If the figures are below that, you should revoke any existing election. Incidentally, the equivalent figures for 1980/81 and next year are £16,977 and £4,352.

Deed of covenant: You could increase the value of a gift to non-tax payers such as children and old people who have little or no income of their own (and of course charities) but to get the advantage this year the payment of gifts must start before April 5.

Elderly tax payers: There is a special allowance of £1,820 for a single person who is 65 or over. The age allowance for a married couple, where at least one of the partners has reached 65, is £2,895. If income is greater than £5,900 a year this allowance is reduced putting such people on an effective tax rate of 50 per cent of that income. These figures remain unchanged for 1981/82 so you should look at your income in those two years bearing in mind that the pensions go up in November, to see if you can arrange your investments in order to reduce this extra tax liability.

Bonds: People who have single premium life assurance policies can bed and breakfast them if they are experiencing a year of relatively little income.

Golden handshakes: If you are losing your job and have a choice between taking your termination payment now or after April 5, you are choosing between the old system of the first £10,000 being tax free and the new system of the first £25,000 being tax free. If you have more than £25,000, however, you must look at the position carefully to see if the old rules of "top-slicing" would give you the better return with the new provisions.

Capital gains: The £3,000 small exemption remains the same next year so it can make sense to carry out bed and breakfasting operations if you are going to save tax in the longer run, and the costs are not too great.

Gifts and trusts: You will be able to get a "roll-over" relief on capital gains which arise when you make a gift of an asset into a trust. So, wait until the new tax year before making such transfers.

Small businesses: If you are thinking of investing in someone else's new business, wait until the new provisions are published on claiming income-tax relief on such investments.

Retirement annuities: If you are self-employed, April 5 could be an important deadline for making a premium payment for a retirement annuity (and claiming tax relief for the previous year).

Life assurance policy: Life assurance relief on qualifying policies is reduced from 17½ per cent to 15 per cent next year. So if you are thinking of starting a policy, pay the first premium before April 6. It could be worth buying an annual premium initially and then, if you prefer, switching to monthly premiums in subsequent years.

Capital transfer tax: Use the £2,000 (per annum) exemption.

Car allowance: If you earn more than £8,500 or are a director of a company, you must use the car on business purposes for at least 10 per cent of total mileage. If you do not you will be taxed at 20 per cent of the original value plus all petrol used for private driving. So, if in doubt why not visit a regional office in Glasgow or Truro?

Overseas employment: If you have spent any time working abroad this year but have not clocked up the full 30 days, how about a trip to the Brussels office. You could even take the car.

NB. The final operative date for action is Friday, April 3. The last night of the tax year, April 5, happens to be a Sunday.

Self-help 1: travel

Pooling the cost of car sharing

Meet Herbie, the battered L-registered Renault 5, which convinced London academics Ruth and Ian Merttens that car sharing really worked for them and their four small children.

Just over three years ago the Merttens sold Herbie to another couple because they could no longer afford the full cost of running it. What they had not bargained for was the additional cost in time, strain, and fares for their growing family of being without it.

So they bought back a share in the car and for three years the two couples split the insurance, MOT, road tax, and maintenance costs, and took it in turn to use the vehicle.

The insurance was in the name of the three drivers in the partnership on a standard insurance tariff and, since each party would use the vehicle for a week or more at a time, who-

ever was using it would fill it up with fuel.

In that way the fuel costs over the year were balanced out, and the other costs of running and keeping Herbie on the road were halved. There was no other way the Merttens could have afforded to be mobile.

That three-year experiment came to an end last month when the other couple moved abroad, but it does illustrate the chances of success of a new venture announced by Suffolk County Council last week—before the latest savings 20p-gallon increase in petrol following the duty increase, and the £10 rise in the road fund licence.

Together with one other rural area, South Lincolnshire, the Community Council for Suffolk has been chosen to run a local publicity campaign to encourage people to share their journeys and save on fuel.

Last year's Transport Act removed the final barrier to car sharing and pooling by allowing people freely to advertise such schemes. Previously this had been allowed only on church or works' notice boards. The Act had also removed the insurance restrictions on pooling and for the first time allowed passengers to contribute to the costs, though it is still not legal to make a profit on the arrangement.

In Suffolk, people do not just travel considerable distances to work, they also travel similar distances to the essential services such as their doctor or the big shopping centres," explained Mr David Wallace, the community council field officer.

Backed by publicity funded by the Department of Transport, Mr Wallace's job is to put car users in touch with those who need transport in

the rural communities. Judging by the first week's response—80 phone calls and several letters—there is a demand to be satisfied.

"We do not aim to compete with existing public transport," Mr Wallace said. "I see it more as an inter-linking exercise, where people can if necessary be ferried to their local bus pick-up point or their journey can be completed by car."

The costs will be shared by agreement among the car users and their passengers, and the role of the local authority will be strictly one of liaison.

The Department of Transport sees the campaign as an energy conservation exercise, while the attraction of the scheme for the user is cost reduction.

Roger Beard

Self-help 2: tobacco

Economics of home-grown tobacco

If the Chancellor's imposts threaten your future tobacco consumption, then look no further than either Kirkaldy in Fife or the hamlet of Tilty just outside Dunmow, Essex.

At Kirkaldy Mr David Chalmers has 78 tobacco and doyen of Britain's several thousand home growers of tobacco, runs the Amateur Tobacco Growers' Association* (annual subscription £1.60, including an advisory service).

At Dunmow there is the Tilty Tobacco Centre,** which is a cooperative for home growers (annual subscription £2; life, £5) which offers a service that its leader, Mrs Cecile Down, describes as "from seed to tobacco pouch".

Grow your tobacco in the garden (mark you the plants reach six or seven feet high by August), harvest it, dry it, get it cured at Tilty and you can either roll your own cigarettes, make your own cigars or just press and slice the tobacco for the pipe at about 25p the ounce. There is no excise restriction provided that the tobacco is for your own consumption.

Mr Chalmers can't believe it can be even cheaper, with a 40p packet of seeds, getting the pipe at about 25p the ounce, the dried harvested tobacco overnight in your oven, according to Mr Chalmers' regimen on heat and humidity.

An ounce of home-grown tobacco will make all manner of cigarettes, on the Tilty figures—a saving of 75p on a pack of 20. The saving on pipe tobacco is slightly smaller.

The comparison for cigar prices—an ounce should make half a dozen decent sized cigars—depends on the quality, but should be at least equivalent to the saving on cigarettes.

Among the nine seed varieties Mr Chalmers imports, mainly from North America, is a strain similar to Havana, but he recommends growing three varieties to achieve a balanced blend.

National Savings

Younger grannies

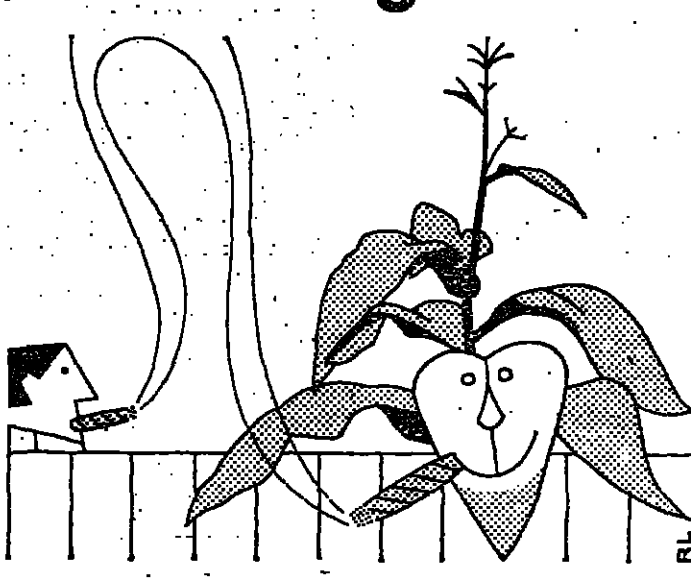
Nobody, least of all building society leaders, was even faintly surprised when the Chancellor, in his Budget, announced that the age limit for granny bonds would be lowered from 60 to 50 years of age—for both sexes. There had been some hope that he might have raised and above only, but that was all.

However, there is a widespread feeling that investors in this age bracket may be more tempted by index-linked savings than pensioners who are more concerned about immediate than they are with distant prospects of capital growth.

The question facing the middle-aged, or as the man from the Department of National Savings put it more attractively, those in the "intermediate" age group, is whether granny bonds will be a better investment than other more conventional holdings.

What has to be said in favour of granny bonds, the second retirement issue National Savings certificates, is that there are no dealing costs or heavy initial charges to be borne.

But that said, I think that anyone with a 10-year investment period ahead of him, might do better to consider the returns from long gilts, and that other National Savings winner, the 19th issue of National Savings certificates. Alternatively, equity investments through either a unit trust or single premium bond could meet the need.



Mrs Down's cooperative, started by her late father in 1948, at present has 7,000 members on its books, of which 2,000 were active last season. Mr Chalmers has 5,700 names, not all at present active.

Mrs Down expects membership to go up this year. "It often happens after a Budget," she says. Last time round there were a hundred or so new members.

Using the cooperative's explanatory booklet—or the book Tobacco Without Tears available from the centre at 50p—

the Tilty members seem to be able to produce on average enough tobacco to give them four or more ounces smoking a week.

Most members each send in 10 to 15 pounds of tobacco for curing at Tilty—in a kiln which takes 900 pounds a time and is this weekend completing the last batch of the 1980 harvest. Mrs Down operates it through the winter with two women helpers.

The Tilty kiln cures between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds of tobacco a year, each batch stay-

ing in the kiln for three weeks at a temperature of between 120 and 130 degrees Fahrenheit in humid conditions. This is for the essential fermentation without which the tobacco is not usable.

Some Tilty members cure their own. The only problem with home curing could be a domestic one, because not every housewife can stand the fairly unpleasant smell at the start of curing, which precedes the more familiar and more fragrant tobacco "nose".

Home-grown tobacco beginners might be advised to buy seedlings to start their first crop. Tilty are taking orders now for the 25,000 or so young plants which will go out for May/June planting. It being important to miss the last frost, Tilty can also recommend other nursery sources.

Young plants normally cost about the same as tomato plants—12p or so each. There are three main varieties, the extremes being the thin leaf for cigarette making and the large leaf for cigar rolling. The variety for pipe tobacco is between the two.

*Amateur Tobacco Growers' Association, 39 Milton Road, Kirkaldy, Fife KY1 1TH. **Tilty Tobacco Centre, Dunmow, Essex CM6 2EG.

Derek Harris

At last you can invest in a pension plan without locking your money away until retirement

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Profit taking puts paid to technical rally

Thursday's technical rally faded yesterday as end-of-account profit taking made equities beat a hasty retreat.

This was in spite of a firm start on further bear closing and new time buying later in the day. However, the profit takers soon won the day with the leading way down after the previous day's good figures from BP and Shell and the seventh round licences.

Sentiment was kept alive by a new round of takeovers including Thos W. Ward's offer for Tunnel Holdings where the 'B' shares leapt 51p to 383p after a brief suspension. T. W. Ward ended the day 2p lower at 116p.

Nevertheless, it was not enough to stop the sellers and the FT Index ended 3.8 down at 477.2 after being 2.5 higher at 10 am.

Glit-tinged securities had another active day with the Government Broker activating the new tap. Exchequer 12½ per cent 1990, at 515 3/16 before it closed at 515 1/8. In longer, profit taking ended a promising start with prices closing unchanged after leading with rises of 1/8.

In shorts the story was similar with early gains of 1/8 being wiped out leaving the list mostly unchanged on the day.

Leading industrials were again overlooked as prices slipped steadily down in quiet trading. ICI reached another new low, dipping 6p to 226p, while Bechtel fell 3p to 161p, Glaxo 2p to 274p, Courtauld 1p to 59p, Hawker Siddeley 10p to 272p, Metal Box 2p to 168p and Lucas Industries 2p to 172p. Tube Investments dipped

another 6p in response to recent figures at 180p, while Turner & Newall retreated 1p to 73p.

Shares of Stone Platt returned from suspension unchanged at 251p on receiving the go-ahead for refinancing proposals, before dipping 3p to 248p at the close. In builders the long-awaited bid for Tunnel Holdings from T. W. Ward produced speculative attention throughout the sector, with Newarthill rising 17p to 402p, Myson 3p to 41p and Tarmac 7p to 305p.

Elsewhere, speculative attention lifted B. Matthews 5p to 348p, Montague L. Meyer 3p to 89p, Leigh Interests 12p to 178p and Foster Bros 4p to 84p.

Also on the bid front, shares of Savoy Hotels 'A' remained unchanged at 166p after the unwanted approach from Trusthouse Forte, up 1p at 158p. Shares of Warner Holidays were suspended at 64½p pending a possible bid approach.

On the results front disappointing figures clipped 15p from Yarrow at 253p and 7p from Concor International at 116p, while Goodman Bros and Stockman hardened 1p to 101p after its trading statement.

In foods, recent figures added another 1p to 96p in United Biscuits as a broker's circular.

Is Boeing about to make a bid for Smiths Industries? That was the question being asked in the market last night. The shares rose 3p to 310p, making a 9p rise so far this week with one buyer reported to be responsible for most of the business.

lifted Somportex 135p to 800p in a thin market. Meanwhile, Unigate dipped 1p to 104p and Associated British Foods added 1p to 123p after the allocation of 7th round licences.

Recent trading statements saw Strong & Fisher end 5p better at 63p and BTR up 7p at 444p, but Stocklake closed unchanged at 95p. Profit taking lopped 4p from Boustead at 167p, 10p from Oxfen at 74p, 5p from MDW Holdings at 85p, 3p from Valor at 52p and 3p from Prestwich Parker at 22p.

Stores encountered profit taking with losses extending across the board. The exception was F. W. Woolworth, after figures earlier this week, finishing 1p to 59p, GUS 'A' fell 5p to 45p, Debenhams 1p to 79p Marks & Spencer 1p to 112p and Boots 3p to 222p.

The recent tight conditions in electricals related and prices were marked easier. Racal fell 3p to 348p, while Thoma EMI closed unchanged at 302p. Only GEC, up 3p to 645p, and Fleetway up 1p to 318p, gained ground.

Banks tried to maintain their recent recovery as Barclays climbed 2p to 395p, National Westminster 1p to 351p and Lloyds remained firm at 305p. But Midland eased 1p to 320p.

However, the prospect of new regulations by the Bank of England governing the money market saw a flurry of activity among discount houses. George Alexander Discount 3p to 316p, Jessel Discount 2p to 262p, while Clive Discount on 48p and Gilbert Bros on 249p remained steady.

The bid for Kennecott Copper from Soho produced a rush of orders for mining finance

houses. RTZ, heavily signed as the next in line, leapt 27p to 463p closely followed by Charter Consolidated, up 16p to 231p. Cons Gold Fields closed 17p higher at 453p.

After the previous day's steep gains, oil shares encountered a strong bout of profit taking with sellers particularly active among the majors. BP, in the wake of recent figures, dipped 6p to 406p, along with Shell, 16p easier at 406p. Ultramar shed 20p to 486p, Lasso 22p to 607p, Tricentral 18p to 288p and Burnmah 3p to 174p.

Among the second liners, Premier retreated 3p to 105p and Berkeley Exploration 23p to 270p, but shortage of stock promoted another sharp rise in Global Natural Resources, 15p to 525p.

Equity turnover for March 12 was 143,967m (bargains 18,258). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Lasso, ICI, GEC, Premier, Cons Gold, Plessey, Tube Investments, Burnmah, British Petroleum, United Biscuits, Tricentral, BP and BTR.

Traditional options: Dealers reported quiet conditions. Calls were made in ICI, Loro, Double Eagle at 45p, in Premier Oil, Woodside Burnmah at 12p and Grindlays.

A put was arranged in ICI and doubles were completed. First National Finance, Loro at 13p and Thomas Borthwick. Traded options: A total of 1,777 contracts were recorded yesterday. Racal attracted 17, RTZ 770, Shell 40, Marks and Spencer 11, Loro 141, Lasso 44, Cons Gold 434.

Latest results

Company Sales Profit Earnings Div Pay Year's

Int or Flo 0.89(1.26) 11.5(1.5) 16/16

Bridgewater (F) 1.11(7.92.6) 1.11(7.92.6) 7(1)

Concor Int (F) 5.9(1.8) 0.21(0.33) 1.05(1.67)

Goodman Bros (I) 0.21(0.33) 0.05(0.087) 0.19(0.33)

Jayplant (F) 0.42(0.36) 0.15(0.08) 0.15(0.08)

Oceanic Cons (I) 5.9(1.8) 0.24(0.38) 5.98(6.55)

Freestrich Parker (I) 7.5(19.4) 0.16(0.33) 2.9(6.2)

Squirrel Horn (F) 5.9(1.8) 0.16(0.33) 2.9(6.2)

Yarrow (I) 7.5(19.4) 0.16(0.33) 2.9(6.2)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on preference share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. *Loss. †Six months against 14 months.

Whitbread tipped as likely bidder for Warner group

By Margaret Pagan

Whitbread Breweries last night was suggested to be the most likely bidder for Warner Holidays, the last big independent holiday camp operator in Britain.

The Warner board asked for a temporary suspension in share dealings at lunchtime yesterday, and then issued a statement that talks were in progress that could lead to a takeover offer. Warner's 50 per cent subsidiary, Whitbread Investments, has a 6.69 per cent stake in Warner and is its market's favorite.

Although the chance is not to be ruled out, a bid from a holiday group like International Thomson Organisation, Horizon or Cosmos would probably be preferred to the Monopolies Commission.

Recent takeovers by leisure groups include Rank's purchase of Batdens and Coral Leisure's bid for Pottas camp, now part of the Bass group. Warner has been seen as a favorite for a takeover offer.

The group was founded by the three Warner brothers, Edmund, Jack and Henry, and registered in 1939. Together the directors and their families control 30.48 per cent of the equity. The other main shareholder is County Bank Smaller Companies Exempt Fund with 6.46 per cent.

Mr Edmund Warner, chairman of Warner Holidays.

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Yarrow confident despite interim loss

By Our Financial Staff

Scottish-based engineer and boilermaker Yarrow, which last year accepted compensation for its anticipated shipbuilding interest in fighting for more, yesterday announced a half-time loss.

For the six months to the end of last December pretax profit of £330,000 fell to a loss of £16,000 on turnover that fell from £9.4m to £7.6m, the interim dividend is maintained at 3.57p gross, and it is a hint that the divi could well be held at the year stage.

Trading conditions December have been difficult but not impossible. Rationalization of operations in the work from 1,400 to 1,200 resulted in a below-the-line exceptional item of £52,000 closure costs. Further savings before June will be a further exceptional item, the accounts.

The group says it remains confident of the longer prospects and believes the strategy of development in high technology business transaction and electronic engineering is the way ahead.

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SelectTV signs deals with Philips and Telecom

By Catherine Gunn

A new cable television company, SelectTV, has signed royalty deals to provide subscription television with Philips Cable Television and British Telecom, in Northampton, Tredgar in Cornwall and Milton Keynes.

The company raised its initial cash from six institutions and will need a further £1m later this year to put its stations into operation. It is aiming for 10,000 subscribers within 18 months, each paying £6 or £7 a month to be able to tune into 30 different films each month, over Philips' and British Telecom's existing cables.

SelectTV's chairman is Mr

Mark Sheldermine, whose company, London Film Productions, co-produced the BBC TV success "I, Claudius" and "Testament of Youth". Finance for the deal was put together by stockbroker Margrets & Addenbrooke, East, Newton.

The operating agreements were completed after the Home Secretary granted licences to provide pay television in the three areas to Philips and British Telecom earlier this week.

SelectTV is still negotiating further deals and is pursuing a similar arrangement in Australia.

Mr Edmund Warner, chairman of Warner Holidays.

of Batdens and Coral Leisure's bid for Pottas camp, now part of the Bass group. Warner has been seen as a favorite for a takeover offer.

The group was founded by the three Warner brothers, Edmund, Jack and Henry, and registered in 1939. Together the directors and their families control 30.48 per cent of the equity. The other main shareholder is County Bank Smaller Companies Exempt Fund with 6.46 per cent.

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Bank Bas Rates

ABN Bank 11
Barclays 12
BCCI 13
Consolidated Credit 14
C. Hoare & Co 15
Lloyds Bank 16
Midland Bank 17
Nat Westminster 18
TSB 19
Williams & Glyn's 20

* 7 day deposit on current account, 10.00% and 10.50% on 12 month deposits.

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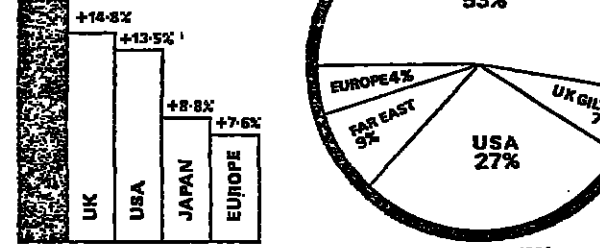
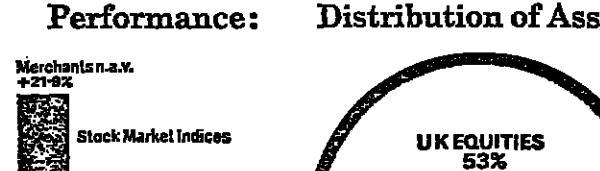
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THE MERCHANTS TRUST LIMITED

Year Ended 31st January 1981

● Final dividend 2.4p, making 4.15p for the year - an increase of 10.6%
● Net asset value 121.4p, an increase of 21.9%

Performance: Distribution of Assets:



Directors: M. W. Jacomb (Chairman), S. A. Field, D. H. L. Hopkinson, T. N. Alk, Sir Anthony Tuke, R. N. Young.

Managers: Kleinwort Benson
Copies of the Annual Report will be available on or about 16th April 1981 from 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3

THE ALLIANCE TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

Extracts from The Report and Accounts

RESULTS FOR YEAR TO 31ST JANUARY	1981	Change on 1980
Net Asset Value per Ordinary 25p Unit	327.70p	+17%
Earnings per Ordinary 25p Unit	11.24p	+16%*
Dividends per Ordinary 25p Unit	10.50p	+12%*

* 1980 figures exclude 0.65p exceptional arrears of dividend.

- Rise in net asset value reflects strong trends in energy and electronic technology stocks.
- £7.2m added to U.S. equity investment and £2m in Japan and Australia. Increased overseas investment likely to continue.
- Freedom from exchange control and capital gains tax has created a better investment climate for trusts.
- Extension of leasing activities; participation in direct oil and gas activities in the U.S.A. and North Sea; investments in Nimslo European Holdings and Gate Microsystems both operating in Dundee.

DISTRIBUTION OF £178m INVESTMENTS

Fixed Interest 53% Equity 47%

FIXED BY EUROPE 33% EUROPE 33% USA 27% JAPAN 3%

This company is an investment trust and is licensed since the Banking Act 1979 to take deposits

For a copy of the Report and Accounts please return to The Secretary, 64 Reform Street, Dundee DD1 1TJ

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Address _____

Conder hit by Middle East conflict

By Richard Allen

Last year's steel strike and the war in the Middle East combined to slash pretax profits at Conder International from £2.46m to £1.3m last year.

But the Winchester-based steel-framed building group, which came to the market through a placing less than two years ago, has maintained its dividend. A final of 5.7p gross takes the total for the year to 10p gross.

Mr Robin Cole, the chairman, said yesterday that the group's overseas division had tumbled from profit into a substantial loss mainly as a result of the Middle East hostilities and the strength of sterling. But the group hopes to make a profit on exports this year.

"It would be foolish to try to predict results for this



Mr Robin Cole, chairman of Conder International.

year," Mr Cole says, although he remains confident that the group will in due course "far surpass past performance".

After the announcement the group's shares fell 4p to 116p. Conder came to the market in 1979 through a placing of 18 per cent of its equity with institutions paying 90p a share.

Profits last year were shored up by a strong performance from the group's Kingsworthy office building division which almost doubled turnover to £40m lifting total sales from £93m to £112m.

Thanks to a deferred tax writeback producing a tax credit of £62,000 against a previous debit of £225,000, earnings a share work out at 23.4p against 27.1p. Excluding this item the figure falls to 13.2p.

Although deepening recession is now seriously depleting the order book, there are many large contracts in prospect, the group says.

The partners of stockbroking firms Heseltine Moss & Co and George White, Evans, Tribe & Co are having talks with a view to a merger at an early date.

Both firms have been trading for over a hundred years. Heseltine Moss has 13 partners, with its head office in Reading and further offices in London, Cardiff, Newbury, Gloucester and Cheltenham. George White, Evans, Tribe & Co is a Bristol firm with six partners.

A further announcement will be made in due course.

Sumrie Clothes buys Leeds factory

Mr M. Sumrie, chairman of Sumrie Clothes, was given further details of plans to rationalize the business. The group is acquiring a 24,000 square foot factory in Leeds for £400,000

cash. There will be additional capital costs of some £50,000. This is to be financed by the sale of premises at York Road for £450,000 cash. Substantial savings will be made as a result.

Listing of Jamaica Sugar to end

The board of Jamaica Sugar Estates, in a statement regarding the foreshadowed offer by Mr Nicholas De Savary, says that discussions with the Exchange concerning the future of company and in particular the continuance of the listing of the shares. The Stock Exchange has decided that the listing should not be maintained after the close of the offer. Documents containing the offer will be posted to shareholders on March 17.

Barons and Crossfield's offer for London Sumatra Plantations is now unconditional and remains open. Acceptances were received on 34.3 per cent at equity.

Bridgewater Estates: Dividend held at 16p for 1980. Pretax profit 5897,000 (£1.25m).

Oceanic Consolidated: Pretax profit for last year to September 30 £42,000 (£36,000). Eps 1.38p (1.16p). Board expects profit for year to be broadly similar to that of previous year.

Mergers cleared: Following proposed mergers are not to be referred to Monopolies Commission: Suter Electrical-Prestdell Holdings; Anglo-Indonesian Coring Industries; Hambroes-controlling interest in Cherryhill.

Hongkong markets

The year of the sharp retreat

From Hongkong

There has been little to crow about on the Hongkong stock market since the Chinese year of the cock began in early February. Usually the market here goes down before the old year ends, since it is regarded as shameful to have debts outstanding over the holiday period and investments are sold off to clear outstanding amounts.

But this year the market was riding high, swinging right through the year of the monkey to close at 1,650.52 on the Hang Seng Index, the market barometer, on February 4 within a whisker of its all-time high of just over 1,700 set in 1973.

The index has fallen on practically every trading day since, and closed this week at 1,333.25 after dipping below 1,300.

Interest rates have taken most of the blame for the gloom. High prime rates in the United States put intense pressure on the local currency, which is at a three-year low of less than HK\$5.3 to US\$1. The Hongkong dollar had also been weak against sterling until this month.

Although the best lending rate has not been as high as in the United States, it has been dragged up to 17 per cent, the highest ever. Borrowing for stock market purchases has become prohibitive, and speculators have come increasingly to realize that no immediate fall is likely. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and Chartered Bank, the big two here, decided yesterday to leave the rate unchanged for at least another week.

A second factor has been the fear that rights issues would draw too much cash out of the market. To offset this worry, the four stock markets earlier this month declared a moratorium on new share listings, but there is nothing they can do to prevent rights issues.

Brokers W. I. Carr had estimated before the moratorium that about HK\$3,500m (£299m) would be raised in new listings and rights issues in the first three or four months of 1981. This was a much higher annual rate than the HK\$5,800m raised by all issues, including loan stock, on the local market last

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, March 27. \$ Contango Day, March 30. Settlement Day, April 6.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of revision	245 pp.
Broken Hill Proprietary	Apr. 20	

Dane Bottom, on the map before the Royals

It is a pity that Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has decided that Gloucestershire does not deserve to be called "Royal". Royal Leamington Spa got its title from Queen Victoria during a visit there. Gloucestershire now has Prince Charles, Princess Anne and Prince Michael of Kent owning houses within about 15 square miles of each other in the South Cotswolds. Perhaps the county council's sin was to have asked. The old style minor gentry would never have done so. And if a girl had behaved like that in one of the villages where the Royals now live, she would have been known as "a forward hussy".

One girl, whose mother was thought to have ideas above her station by sending her to elocution classes, was said to be "cracking her jaw". Someone asked her: "Can't she be what hee bist?" ("Can't you be a you are?")

Prince Michael has bought what used to be a down house as "the suntu house". On the hill above Brimscombe. Over the hill on the other side of the alley, at Gatcombe lives Princess Anne. Prince Charles will live at Tetbury, in the other side of her.

The nearby stone villages, such as Tetbury, are as much as their appearance suggests. Blood, love and fiction put Aveing and Minchinhampton on the map. Maps could be properly drawn. Woe! Dane Bottom, near tcombe, is said to have got its name from a battle with the Saxons when the Saxons' robes splashed about in mud up to the fetlocks. Though some historians give the word Dane in that text comes from the Anglo-Saxon "dene" meaning valley, there were clashes in Dane hereabouts.

Aveing Church was built Marilda, Queen of William the Conqueror, in

remorse after having had the lord of the manor, Brictric, descendant of Saxon kings, thrown into prison. She fell in love with him before she met William, but her love was not returned. He died in prison, according to the big handwritten history book kept safely by the people's warden at Aveing, though another local history says he did not.

Figs Face Sunday is kept in the village on the first Sunday after September 14, anniversary of the dedication and first feast. As part of the 900th celebration last year Princess Anne and Prince Mark Phillips planted trees.

The manors of Aveing and Minchinhampton were transferred by William to the convent of the Abbaye aux Dames at Caen where the first abbess was the Conqueror's eldest daughter. It is difficult sometimes to disentangle the truth from the local humour. "Don't go and look at the bayonet in the attic. It has the blood of a German on it," my grandfather told me as a child. I did it. It didn't. He went off to America in the nineteenth century to look for his father, who was murdered for his gold. He had sold his Gloucestershire property when drunk; my grandfather taught himself Spanish, worked his way round the country, then came back and married the girl he left behind.

There is a darker legend that the dying screams of Edward II, murdered in his bed at Berkeley Castle, could be heard in the adjacent town. His shrine is in Gloucester Cathedral. A humour relieves a stubbornness of resolve and loyalty to roots. One of the places to make one aware of that is the front row of a local rugby scrum. Gloucestershire rugby has about it a relentlessness of purpose. In the stand at one county match supporters were yelled: "Timber, timber, timber." When asked why, they replied: "Nelson's ships were made of our timber. We're from the Forest." The Forest of Dean, place of ancient customs, stretches mysteriously towards the border.

The battle honours of the Gloucestershire Regiment and names of local men on the war memorials bear witness to a similar loyalty to roots. Fifty-seven young men



The war memorial at Minchinhampton: 57 young men did not come back from the First World War.

from Minchinhampton alone died in the First World War. Childhood afternoons in the 1930s seemed to be spent having tea with sad women left without men.

There is a cross in the Cathedral at Gloucester, carved during captivity by Col. J. P. Carne, VC, DSO, who commanded the Gloucesters in Korea during their Imjin River stand. The badge which men of the regiment wear at the back of their caps commemorates a back-to-back stand in Egypt in 1901. The Regimental Museum at Gloucester tells the story vividly.

Slow speaking and courteous local people can be

obstinate and fierce when roused over their rights. Minchinhampton Common can give rise to strong feelings. There was an anonymous threat to "dig up the golf greens" during a dispute about an alleged encroachment or other.

Today people fly kites, walk their dogs and play cricket there and on a clear day can see the distant blue hills of the border country beyond the leaden streak of the Severn.

Beating the bounds of the parish in Gloucestershire was also an assertion of ancient rights, celebrated in period

costume at Cranham for its

influence locally of William Morris. The gramophone records now available of local dialect, the relics in the excellent local museums, the Roman remains, the coming and going of the migrating birds at the Severn Wildlife Trust and the Three Choirs Festival, held every third year in the magnificent Cathedral at Gloucester, reflect that continuity.

Where the Romans marched past the remains of the Minchinhampton Roman camp, the stones were erected during the last war as a barrier against enemy gliders. The great Roman roads, the

Fosse Way, Ermine Street and Akeman Street, crisscrossing at Cirencester (Corinium), made it an important centre.

An ancient pulse still beats. I have seen precise cows move to safety several minutes before the sudden tide of the Severn bore came rushing up the river, spilling into adjacent land. Local people say the rocks build high if the season is to be good. And if you live in Brimscombe and can hear Minchinhampton bells over the shrike of the wind in the trees on the edge of the Golden Valley, then rain is on the way.

Peter Evans

The Cornish mine that went back to nature

As the early morning sun crept as if by stealth along the valley, investing outcrops of rock and small farming communities with a new-found dimension, there emerged below the great granite shoulder of a distant hill a group of austere buildings whose austere proportions and quality of design suggested origins of some monastic purpose.

But the lie to any such thought came as fast as it took the morning light to penetrate the ridge from which the structures appeared to have been spawned and, within the space of a couple of minutes, a true and honest shape of massive girth and height assumed shape to announce an identity which, in truth, was a common enough feature in other parts of West Cornwall.

My wife and I learned later that the new delictin mine was once the centre of a flourishing industrial community, depression having come immediately after the First World War when increasing competition from abroad made it uneconomic to continue working the pit.

We walked along the floor of the valley and began the climb to the mine. The buildings more closely, the distance was deceptive and it took us nearly an hour to reach the site.

The sombre atmosphere of the place became more pronounced as we approached the mine. The buildings were wrought by erosion and general neglect were rendered less severe by the prolific growth of bramble, ivy and bindweed which clung in wild profusion to crumbling walls and the vague remains of industrial machinery.

We moved across to where names were etched upon the solid granite base of the chimney and in doing so, annoyed a bird nesting in vegetation growing from a fracture in the masonry. An adjoining wall. From a ragged gap which had served as a window in the upper part of the engine room we looked across the valley to the mountain hills around Camborne and saw that a mist had risen to give promise of a warm day.

Leaving the old mine buildings and their attendant slag heaps, clothed in a disarray of ragwort, mallow and a whole host of other wild flowers, we took a last look at the somewhat

forbidding yet fascinating scene and continued our walk down towards the floor of the valley.

It was then that we noticed an elderly man threading his way along a narrow path in the direction of Carnkie, an ancient trilby on the back of his head, a dog hard by.

Nothing affably, the old man stopped to pass the time of day and we knew at once that our visit to Cornwall was going to be that much richer by this chance meeting with one of its native sons.

He began by explaining that the delictin mine we had just left was the South Francis, named after its owner, Francis Bassett, and went on to describe how life had changed in that part of the duchy since he and his mates had come off the last shift, never to return.

Yes, he reflected, he had good reason to remember the mine when it provided work for him and so many of his contemporaries most of whom, as he was careful to point out, were now in the armed forces.

The names he recalled and the manner of his articulation sounded like some of the ancient Celtic incantations, Jack Devil, Swannee Toy, Picky Lewis, Picky Shine, Long John Martin and London Joe seemed to come alive again as he spoke.

The old man adjusted his trilby, dropped a word of comfort to his uncomplaining dog and went on, "Ay, and the old gloche Inn, down yonder in Carnkie, were open by seven in the morning so that we miners going underground could fill our cans with beer. It were all hush and bustle then, you know. Not a bit like the quiet country backwater it is today."

He was silent for a moment and then, frowning his dog, he added, "Aah, times do change right enough, there's no denying that, and that's for sure."

The last words still busy at its exercises while cattle, thoroughly aroused, converged upon us as if to test the quality of our conversation.

Trees grew in abundance where men once toiled, the scars of industry having all but disappeared beneath a rich verdure established over a period of nearly 60 years. Nature had reclaimed its own.

Eric Joyce

Holidays and Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland

WEST COUNTRY

DEVON

Luxury cottage suites
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Home Farm Hotel
Wilmington, Devon (A35), Devon
Thatched XVI C country house hotel. AA* rating. South Devon's glorious coastal countryside. Family run hotel for families. Seafront bar and restaurant. Most bedrooms with bath and views. All luxury self-catering apartments. Mini breaks and Christmas Holidays.
Brochure: Wilmington 278 (040 483)

TORCROSS HOTEL
At the water's edge on the beach. An artistic setting. South Devon's glorious coastal countryside. Family run hotel for families. Seafront bar and restaurant. Most bedrooms with bath and views. All luxury self-catering apartments. Mini breaks and Christmas Holidays.
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EAST DEVON
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Brochure: East Devon 278 (040 483)

BEAUTIFUL CORNWALL
Westbury Hotel, Bodmin
AA, RAC
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COTSWOLDS - Pine-clad flat. Sleeps four (double and two singles). Shower and own large sauna. "Fridge, linen provided." Telephone Bodmin 2212. For more information, contact the Devon Tourist Board, Tel: 040 928 481.

EAST DEVON - Widworthy Court, near Hatherly. A beautiful setting. South Devon's glorious coastal countryside. Family run hotel for families. Seafront bar and restaurant. Most bedrooms with bath and views. All luxury self-catering apartments. Mini breaks and Christmas Holidays.
Brochure: East Devon 278 (040 483)

WILMINGTON - A beautiful setting. South Devon's glorious coastal countryside. Family run hotel for families. Seafront bar and restaurant. Most bedrooms with bath and views. All luxury self-catering apartments. Mini breaks and Christmas Holidays.
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AA **** RAC
Here you can relax in 5 acres of enchanting grounds overlooking the beach and glorious coastline of South Devon's most exclusive resort. Superb cuisine and service worthy of the elegantly furnished surroundings. Enjoy all the amenities that you would expect of one of England's finest hotels - including heated pool, private tennis courts, landscaped gardens, golf, beauty salon, hairdressing and colour TV and bedrooms in every room. For more information, contact the Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8RY Tel: (03955) 2651

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PICTURESQUE OLD WORLD THATCHED DEVONSHIRE COTTAGES
Small charming cottages offering delightful and superior accommodation. The cottages are situated in a beautiful setting, each with its own private garden and parking space. The cottages are ideal for a romantic getaway or a family holiday. For more information, contact the Devon Tourist Board, Tel: 040 928 481.

NORTH DEVON - From 25th April. Small charming cottages offering delightful and superior accommodation. The cottages are situated in a beautiful setting, each with its own private garden and parking space. The cottages are ideal for a romantic getaway or a family holiday. For more information, contact the Devon Tourist Board, Tel: 040 928 481.

SOMERSET - A beautiful setting. South Devon's glorious coastal countryside. Family run hotel for families. Seafront bar and restaurant. Most bedrooms with bath and views. All luxury self-catering apartments. Mini breaks and Christmas Holidays.
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WILMINGTON - A beautiful setting. South Devon's glorious coastal countryside. Family run hotel for families. Seafront bar and restaurant. Most bedrooms with bath and views. All luxury self-catering apartments. Mini breaks and Christmas Holidays.
Brochure: Wilmington 278 (040 483)

EAST DEVON - Widworthy Court, near Hatherly. A beautiful setting. South Devon's glorious coastal countryside. Family run hotel for families. Seafront bar and restaurant. Most bedrooms with bath and views. All luxury self-catering apartments. Mini breaks and Christmas Holidays.
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SPECIAL REDUCTIONS FOR EARLY BOOKING
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Family hotel at water's edge. Large garden. Excellent food and accommodation. All bedrooms with bath. Special breakfast. Special price for 14th birthday. Special price for 21st birthday. Special price for 28th birthday. Special price for 35th birthday. Special price for 42nd birthday. Special price for 49th birthday. Special price for 56th birthday. Special price for 63rd birthday. Special price for 70th birthday. Special price for 77th birthday. Special price for 84th birthday. Special price for 91st birthday. Special price for 98th birthday. Special price for 105th birthday. Special price for 112th birthday. Special price for 119th birthday. Special price for 126th birthday. Special price for 133th birthday. Special price for 140th birthday. Special price for 147th birthday. Special price for 154th birthday. Special price for 161th birthday. Special price for 168th birthday. Special price for 175th birthday. Special price for 182th birthday. Special price for 189th birthday. 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Children's Holidays

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(continued on page 26)

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

Energy is not a bad theme for an Ideal Home exhibition—you need a great deal of it to struggle round this year's offering which, to put it mildly, looks as if the creativity boys had been taking morning-after pills to prevent the smallest sperm of a concept from developing into anything resembling a fully grown scheme. I swear that even the ducks on the ideal village pond are left over from last year.

The most original thought is the underground house topped with a thatch of earth and turf to keep the heat in. I doubt if many people would find the sensation of living in a burrow particularly attractive, but the idea is capable of development so why, when it came to furnishing this lair, did the designer interpret subterranean as suburban?

Could we not have had something more space age to ooh and aah at? I accept that exhibitors are there to sell, but they ought to know by now that what you put in your shop window should stimulate and attract the customer, even if most of them do end up buying reproduction teak.

For those who like sophisticated gadgetry and are planning a new kitchen, British Gas have a fun toy called Compute-a-Kitchen. Take the dimensions of your room with you, tell them the equipment you want to fit into it and they will produce a layout for you on a visual display unit—and if you do not like the position of the cooker and the wall cupboards, the computer will erase and re-draw until you are satisfied.

Those who want to play this kitchen game need to make an appointment by telephoning 01-371 2995, or may use the computer at the Building Centre, 26, Store Street, London, WC1, after April 4 when the exhibition closes at Earls Court. The fee is £15; for this you get a

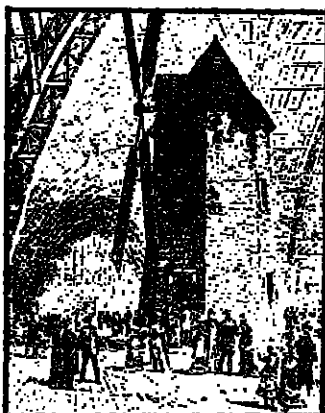
colour plan and a site visit to check measurements. The fee is deductible if you buy the Gasplan furniture displayed. There are discounts if you order from the stand at the exhibition, but not at the Building Centre.

In the good ideas category I thought Crown Paints won top marks for their introduction of 75ml packs of paint. The idea is to replace those tiny colour strips by giving you the chance to see what the colour really looks like on the wall.

If you have ever tried to match a furnishing colour, particularly a dark shade, from a tin square of colour you will know just how different the effect can be when you get the same shade spread about in quantity. The last time I did it I tried to match a delicate shade of apple green in the bedroom curtains. En masse it reflected in the white wardrobes and instead of the fresh effect I had hoped for it made everything, including the occupant of the bed, look seakick.

Now you can avoid such disaster by buying a 25p Matchpot which comes in 22 colours of Crown Plus Two matt and silk emulsion. There is enough in the plastic pot to cover 1 sq metre of wall twice, so you can either paint a spare piece of paper or a section of the wall itself, which gives you the chance to be much more adventurous with colour without the risk of making expensive mistakes.

For an introductory period the 25p will be refundable when you buy a 2-litre can of any Crown Plus Two paint. The Matchpots, apart from being on stand 114 at the exhibition, will be in Crown stockists from April.



■ To be a Lalique must be something akin to being a Barrymore—difficult not to spend your life trying to upstage the rest of the family. To be the third and last generation of a family of artists descended from René Lalique must impose even greater strictures—how to remain true to yourself while maintaining the tradition the world expects from your name.

Marie-Claude Lalique, by opening in London last week the first shop outside Paris to display her entire collection of glass, shows that she knows exactly how to achieve that balance. She borrows just enough from her grandfather René and her father Marc to establish the pedigree, but the shapes on which she imposes the typical Lalique motifs are quite clearly of today.

The best-known family signature is the use of opalescent colourless glass with a "satin" finish, and in this crystal shade of a shop in Mount Street, W1, you will see many versions including several designs by Marc Lalique—his famous cactus table and a set of curvaceous carafes in needed

The liveliest spot in the whole show was provided by a group of Mexican craftsmen brought over by Chloe Sayer, a writer and specialist in Mexican handicrafts. She encouraged them to come specially to demonstrate their skills at the exhibition, in spite of the fact that none speaks a word of English.

Some of their techniques are pre-Conquest. You can see traditional weaving, mask making, as a lacquering of gourds, and watch the silversmiths heating the metal in a little crucible and soldering it with a blowpipe. There is a tinsmith making brilliantly coloured modern decorations and a master carver carving bone and ivory into strange symbolic skeletons—one even dressed as a bride to symbolize the Mexican regard for death as a joyous festivity rather than a wake.

The oldest member of the group is a 70-year-old potter who had never used an electric kiln before arriving at the exhibition but was confident that he would be able to master the technique in approximately five minutes. He showed a spirit of enterprise completely lacking in the rest of the show and it is cheering to think that he, at least, will go back home to Mexico with something to tell his grandchildren. For him the exhibition provided something new and interesting even if, for regular Ideal Home visitors, it was a monument to missed opportunity.

crystal called Langeais—which have glasses with bellied stems to match. I put out my hand to caress them and Madame Lalique said, "I like your gesture—beautiful things must be touched."

She makes greater use of colour than did either her father or grandfather. A swirling opaline lizard curled round the edges, another is decorated with amber serpents. There are large flat plates and bowls in a

vivid blue that look as if they might liquify if you try to pick them up.

Prices are not low. You can find a crystal swizzle stick at £12.75 but champagne glasses are around £36 each, candlesticks around £100, bowls from £79 to £368, up to the table at £11,545. I cannot say that to buy a piece of today's Lalique will be the investment that it was in 1909 when René founded his first glass factory, having already established himself as

a jeweller. But it is worth remembering that Marie-Claude Lalique has no children and although she has inherited and fostered a talented group of administrators and craftsmen who will continue the company, no one else will ever be able to complete a piece with the authentic signature of a member of the family.

If you have the chance to visit Paris you may care to look for one item that is not available in the London shop or in any British stockist—delightful glass rings in a variety of designs all at around £25 each. You can find them at Lalique in Paris, 11 Rue Royale, 8ème arrondissement. They do have one small disadvantage in that they are very fragile and shatter easily, but when I asked if it would not be a good idea to set them in a silver half-hoop to prevent breakage, Madame Lalique said, "It is cheaper to come to Paris every time you break one and buy another."

I suppose it also creates a demand for a lot more rings. A very practical people, the French.



Above: crystal champagne glass with a stem topped by two naked figures in typical Lalique opalescent satin finished glass. £36 from the new Lalique showroom at 24 Mount Street, London W1.

■ Did you know that when a lower grade civil servant entitled to a loose carpet took over the office of a higher ranking man with fitted carpet they used to (and may still) solemnly send carpet un-fitters in to turn back the edges of the wall-to-wall status symbol to make it conform to the regulations?

This gem of idiocracy is revealed in Office Life, the first of a new series of hour-long programmes on Capital Radio called Teach Yourself You, starting next Monday at 8pm. The programme is presented by John Nicholson, lecturer in psychology at Bedford College, London, who during the next seven weeks will also take a look at Friendliness, Shyness, One Upmanship, Learning and Memory, Getting Away from it All and Happiness.

The first programme has some fascinating things to say about secretaries (only 10 per cent have ambitions), men bosses who pinch bottoms (and worse) and women bosses who "fall into the queen bee syndrome" and despise other women who do not have their ambition. It also concludes that the best office layout is a "cave and campfire" style, with the campfire open-plan where everyone can chat and feel part of the group, surrounded by caves which they can use when they need quiet.

It is also riveting stuff and recommended for any opinion-minded boss who genuinely wants to know how to make the best use of his staff. Live secretaries when word processors take over the typing and filing—30 per cent of her present job and leaves her time for more responsibility.

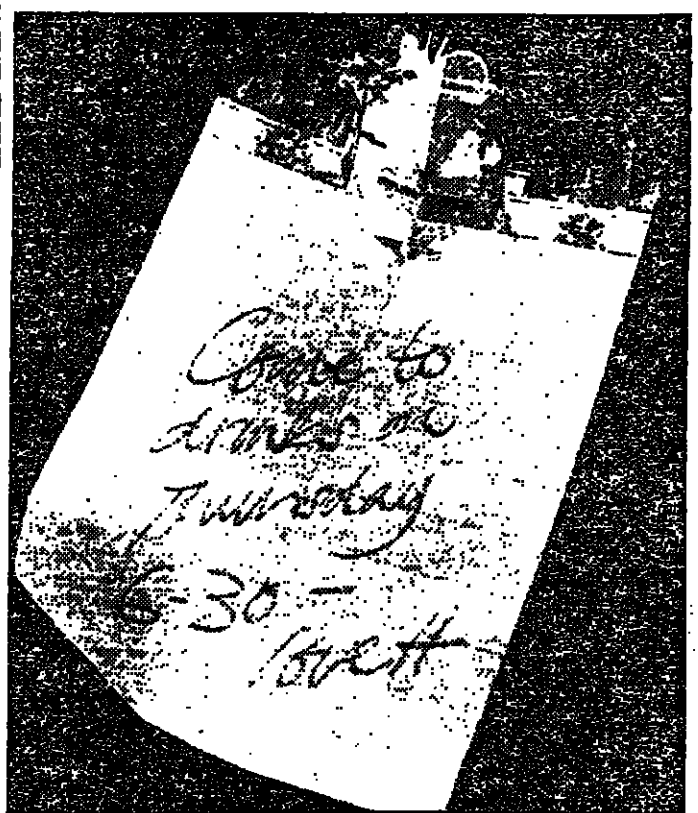
It is also advised for girls who have a crush on the boss once that happens they will find themselves in even greater competition with men who would see a secretarial job as a path to middle management once it did not involve typing.

■ Writing paper is certainly not what it used to be. In fact if you still incline towards plain white with no frills it may not be your breeding that is showing, but your age. Paper has gone pop.

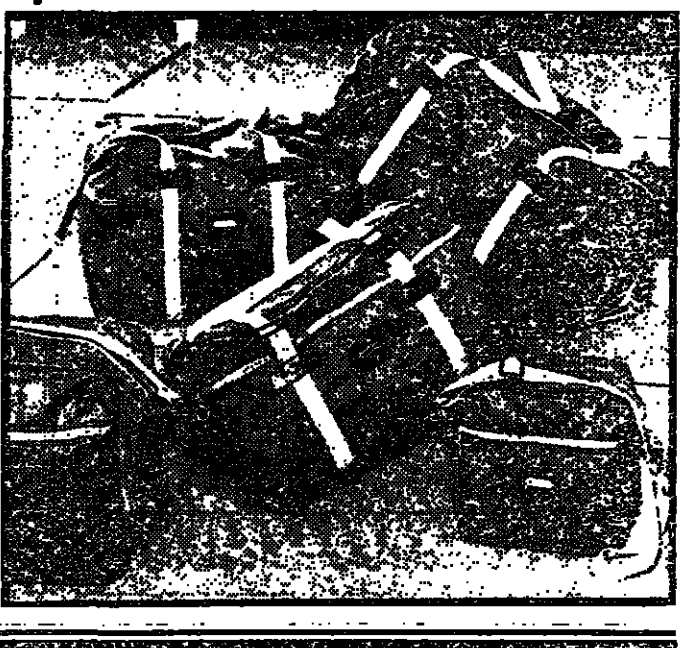
Or, to be more precise, pop-up. That is the latest idea from the people who invented three-dimensional Papermagic cards, Dodo Designs. They have now produced a collection of presentation packs containing 12 single sheets of decorative paper headed with a design which pops up as it is unfolded.

There are five designs: Cocktail, illustrated Garden, with a cottage and herbaceous border; Cat and Mouse, with a distinctly predatory marmalade cat; Good Morning, with an equally predatory lady popping out of bed; and Pen and Ink, with a bottle of ink splashing over the heading.

They are intended for the gift market, but our random sample of testers aged seven to 70 have been so enchanted that they have rushed out to buy them for their own use. Selfridges have them at £1.95 a pack and other stockists include branches of Garlands at Stevenage, Hemel Hemstead and Brent Cross, and Pentangle branches in Scotland.



Below: the soft sell by Samsonite—a new range of duffel bags in shiny khaki polyamide fabric with beige webbing. From left, Handy duffel £22, Strapped duffel £30, Square duffel £32, Carry duffel £38 and Mini duffel £17. From the Kicks range at Debenhams W1 and branches of Salisburys.



the installation, plus around £48 a year for an ex-directory line. These fees are payable to the security companies but go straight to the Post Office. Maintenance is vital and these charges will be shown by each company you ask to provide an estimate. You should also ask each one what the increase in these charges has been during the past couple of years. Some inspect twice a year, some each quarter, and the charge is usually between 10 and 20 per cent of the installation cost, or £35-£70 on an average system.

All the reputable security companies provide similar services, but their attitude to rising costs varies considerably. One attributes a 35 per cent increase to "variable company overheads", which I consider

to be their bad luck, not mine. A random check showed that Securicor increased their charges by 25 per cent last year, AFA by 22 per cent and that the lowest increases were shown by Clubb, 18 per cent, and ADT, 9.75 per cent.

ADT's marketing manager, Ken Keating, says, "No matter what type of system you buy, the main consideration is what it will cost you in the next five or 10 years. That is where the business end is and why we have had to look closely at our organization to keep our increases as low as possible."

It is a sentiment that any householder who has experienced the alarmingly rapid rise in labour-intensive service charges will note with approval.

Far left: if not to catch a thief at least to fool one—a Timea 1301 plug can be set to switch lights on and off when you are out to confuse anyone watching the house, although it won't fool anyone if you don't vary the programme. You can also use it to turn on your electric blanket or fan heater. About £17 from Currys.

Left: to avoid surprise attacks at the front door—a security phone which incorporates a hidden television camera. When a visitor presses the bell his picture appears on the 3 x 3 1/2 in screen mounted on the inside wall. It also records both picture and sound so that if an intruder breaks in after trying the bell he will have left his own evidence.

Cost of the Video Door Security including installation is £700 by Geomarc Trading Co, 1-3 Albert Place, London N3.



Photograph by Janet

When the chauffeur's late for a girl's first date, life gets tedious, doesn't it? At least, if it rains, this lady's not for shrinking as she is wearing Health-Tex, the American children's wear best known for its washability. Lilac, pink and white floral top, £5.50, lilac corduroy jeans, £8.90, both in ages 2-4 and 4-7 in cotton and polyester. From Selfridges, Bantalls of Kingston, Welwyn Department Stores, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, and selected Debenhams stores.

■ There is not much point in setting your sights on an ideal home and working hard to achieve it if you make it easy for others to take the waiting out of wanting by using the credit card system of your door locks. So this seems an appropriate moment to keep my promise to take a further look at keeping out intruders.

As everyone will tell you who has ever been burgled, it is not so much the loss of possessions as the rape of privacy that is upsetting—the idea that a stranger has "been through one's things" is the way most people put it. I did not appreciate the unpleasantness of the experience until a friend described how she had found all her underwear stained with the blood of the burglar who had cut his hands as he broke in.

So even if you believe you have nothing worth stealing, one in four households still has no contents insurance at all, in spite of the estimate that the average living room contains at least £1,000 worth of furniture and fittings—an alarm system is worth considering. This is an increasingly violent age and many burglaries are committed by young amateurs looking for quick pickings—cash and anything portable—but they are often not satisfied unless they wreck your home as part of the package.

There are several DIY alarm systems available from about £60 to £200, including one by Yale designed specially for boats and caravans. Insurance companies are not too keen on amateur installations but if they were more willing to keep their highest charges for their high risk clients and to offer a carrot to ordinary householders, more people might be willing to consider spending the necessary £400-£500, plus annual maintenance, on a professional installation.

Before you consider any form of safeguard always contact your local police station and ask the crime prevention officer to come round and give his advice. He will not only give you a list of approved alarm companies but he may consider that a good set of locks is all you need. It all depends on the position and layout of the house.

Take his advice, call in the lock people and tell them what he recommended—do not ask their advice first. The daughter of a colleague was told by a leading lock specialist she needed £900 worth of locks, grilles and sliding gates; when she checked with the police she found that she could be adequately protected with a set of locks costing less than £100.

The next step is to contact the National Supervisory Council for Intruder Alarms, a non-profit-making organization set up to maintain a roll of

approved companies who install and maintain alarms to the British Standard. They also inspect installations and will supply a list, free, of the installers they approve. The council's address is: St Ives House, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1RD.

The usual forms of domestic intruder alarms include ultrasonic and infra-red sensors linked to a control unit and alarm bells. Direct lines to local police stations are being discouraged by the police in some areas but the alternatives are to link the alarm system with the telephone. This automatically dials the alarm company, who will then call the police. If the company's telephone is engaged the machine will call again up to five times; if there is still no acknowledgement it sets the alarm bells off. For these installations an ex-directory number is advised in addition to your normal one to prevent the thief deliberately blocking the line.

There are three main problems connected with alarm systems. The first is the danger of setting them off accidentally—a particular hazard if you are installing your own system, as even the position of a soil pipe can affect a high frequency movement detector, triggering it off each time water flushes down. Infra-red detectors which pick

up changes of temperature can also be affected by the movement of large pets.

The second problem concerns the number of people who are involved in the installation of an alarm system and who knows the layout and contents of the houses they survey. There is no guarantee that they will not use that information to their advantage should they leave the security company's service.

To overcome this anxiety a computerized alarm system giving the householder a secret code number has been produced. No one else, including the installer and the service engineer, knows the code and the system will not work without it.

The master control unit, the size of a telephone directory, monitors all the contacts and sensors eight times a second and analyses any type of fault, deciding whether it is caused, for instance, by weather conditions or by an intruder and so eliminating false alarms.

Once it has decided there is a problem the number of the door or window at fault flashes on the digital display so that the householder knows immediately which has gone wrong. This information is retained in the computer's memory and when an engineer comes it produces a print out.

The basic system, called In-

